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DELIMITATION

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The illusion of development rankings

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A LEGEND

Former India player Abid Ali passes away

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NEARBY

Ranya case: Govt. withdraws order on CID probe

BENGALURU
Hours after issuing an order entrusting the CID to probe the Ranya Rao gold smuggling case, the State government withdrew its order on Tuesday.
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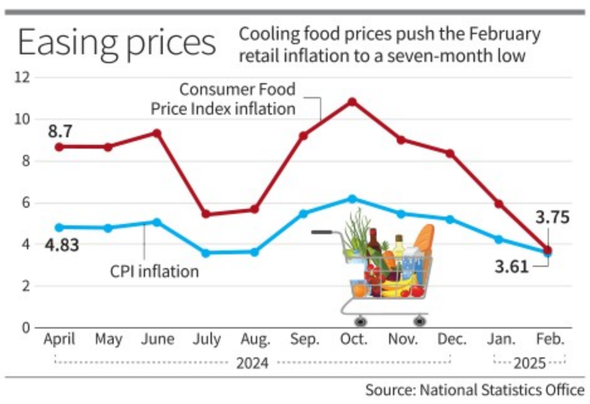
'Govt. not against conducting KAS prelims yet again'

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the government would allow re-examination of the KAS preliminary conducted by the KPSC if the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal pronounces a verdict in favour of it. » Page 6

Retail inflation at 7-month low as food prices decline

Consumer price inflation drops to 3.6% in February 2025; with growth slowing for the fourth straight month, inflation is now below RBI 4% target, increasing chances of a repo rate reduction

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI



Source: National Statistics Office

India's retail inflation dipped to a seven-month low of 3.6% as food prices eased in February 2025, led by vegetables, pulses, and eggs. The annual change in consumer prices was 4.26% in January 2025.

The increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the retail prices, has slowed for the fourth consecutive month and is now lower than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target inflation of 4%. This increases the likelihood of another 0.25% repo rate cut by the RBI next month, say economists.

"There is a decline of 65 basis points in headline inflation of February 2025 in comparison with January 2025. It is the lowest year-on-year inflation after July 2024," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said, while releasing the CPI.

A basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage.

The NSO data showed that the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) increased just 3.75% in February, the slowest in almost two years. CFPI stood at 5.9% in the previous month. Vegetable prices deflated 1%, after seeing double-digit inflation in most months of the financial year. Among vegetables, tomato prices deflated, and potato inflation slowed, while onion prices rose at a quicker rate.

Wheat prices rose 8.8% in the reporting month, slightly more than the 7.8% seen in January 2024. Pulses and products inflation entered negative territory for the first time in the current fiscal, deflating 1.35% in February.

The easing of food inflation comes on a higher base as, for the better part of 2024-25, food prices rose at a pace of over 5%.

Price rise for urban consumers slowed to 3.3%, compared with 3.9% in the previous month. Rural consumers saw inflation dip to 3.8%, from 4.6% in the previous month.

Retail inflation was the highest in Kerala at 7.3% and the lowest in Telangana at just 1.3%. Nine of the 22 States had inflation above 4%. Varying food prices are the reason for this differential, says Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at the Bank of Baroda.

Pakistan train siege ends; 340 freed, 27 soldiers dead

Agence France-Presse
SIBI

Ambulances wait at a railway station in the Balochistan province, Pakistan, to ferry rescued passengers on Wednesday. REUTERS

More than 340 train passengers taken hostage by a militant group in Pakistan were freed on Wednesday by security forces after a 30-hour siege, an Army official said, confirming that 27 off-duty soldiers were shot dead by militants.

Pakistan security forces launched a rescue mission on Tuesday afternoon after the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), the separatist group, bombed a rail track in mountainous southwest Balochistan and stormed the Jaffar Express with around 450 passengers on board. In a statement after the attack, the BLA demanded release of its imprisoned members.

30 terrorists killed

A total of "346 hostages were freed and over 30 terrorists killed during the operation," an Army official said on condition of anonymity. The 27 slain soldiers had been travelling on the train as passengers, the official added. "A large number of (paramilitary) personnel and their families were travelling home for their vacations," said another official.

One on-duty soldier was killed in the operation. The Army official did not give a civilian death toll, but sources said the train driver and a police officer had been killed. Several passengers who escaped or were freed by the militants said the latter first checked their identity cards to confirm who was from outside the Balochistan province.

The BLA and other separatist groups have been accusing outsiders of plundering the natural resources in Balochistan, which borders Afghanistan and Iran. Attacks by the such groups have soared in the past few years, mostly targeting security forces and ethnic groups from outside the province.

The injury layoff taught me how to deal with setbacks

The 26-year old throws light on the importance of being proactive in T20Is, the need to be patient with the fielding standards in the Women's Premier League and the experience of playing with international stars

SPORTZPICS/WPL

INTERVIEW

HARLEEN DEOL

Vivek Krishnan
MUMBAI

Featuring at ninth among the top-10 run-getters in the Women's Premier League this year, Harleen Deol is one of three Gujarat Giants players in the list, alongside the Australian duo of Beth Mooney and Ashleigh Gardner. Their contributions have gone a long way towards helping GG enter the Eliminator for the first time since the competition began in 2023.

The 26-year-old's ongoing campaign is in stark contrast to last season, where she suffered a premature exit after an attempt to intercept the ball at the cover boundary resulted in a knee injury and a long layoff. Since returning from injury, Harleen has got back into India's ODI team, notably smashing her first international ton against West Indies in Vadodara in December.

In an interview with *The Hindu* ahead of GG's Eliminator against Mumbai Indians at the Brabourne Stadium on Thursday, Harleen reflected on her injury, her return to India's 50-over set-up, her fielding ability and more. Excerpts:

Gujarat Giants has never beaten MI in six meetings. Where could the game on Thursday be won or lost?

Whenever you play big matches, it is just about handling the pressure the right way. Whoever does that is going to win. Mumbai have played two back-to-back matches and have just had a day's break. They are coming off a loss (against Royal Challengers Bengaluru). So, they also have a challenge to overcome.

You have been batting well of late. Would you say this is the best you have batted in the WPL?

I won't say I am batting at my best. I had a pretty good season in the first year too. But when you miss out one season, you keep feeling you have missed out on an opportunity. But that's eventually how you learn things and that's how you analyse. When you come back, you have got time to fill in the boxes that were lacking. For me, it has been like that. If I can play well in the next two matches, then I would say this is going to be my best (season).

What were your targets coming into the season? Was your preparation any different before this season?

I was doing rehab (laughs). No, I am not someone to give myself targets. In the initial stage, I was batting at No. 5. If I had told myself I have to make these many runs, how could I have achieved it at that position? For me, it's more about how well you can handle the situation while batting, whether it is No. 6 or 3. Whatever the team demands, I have to accordingly just slot into that role. I am not someone to set targets. Even if you set targets, God has their own plans for you. I like to go like that.

How do you generally prepare for a T20 tournament?

I was just coming back from the ODI series. When you have scored runs in international cricket, you are more confident of doing it over here as well. This is a slightly different format. You have to just be proactive about the demands of this format. The preparation is a little different. I focus more on power-hitting. Eventually it is also about playing good cricketing shots. That also gives you those runs. So I don't make things too complicated.

You have batted at No. 5 and also at 3. What is the position you are most comfortable at?

When you score runs, you feel comfortable at all positions. At No. 3, you get more time to settle in and then do what the team needs. I like to bat that way. But if I have to bat at the end, I am also prepared for that. Before going into a tournament, you just have to prepare for how your mindset should be for different positions. It is about how you have prepared.

When you are at No. 3, you said there is a bit more time on offer. How much does the mindset change?

When we are batting lower down, you just have to hit and bat at one gear. If you get out, you get out. At No. 3, you have to have different gears. As a player, you should know which gear works for you. There are times when you have to go with the flow. It's all according to the situation.

How has it been to bat with Mooney and Gardner? Do you pick their brains about batting?

Obviously, they have such good international experience. They have done well in India. They have done well in all the countries. When you are batting with them, they are the kind who will keep discussing the things that can be done. They don't put pressure on you. When I am batting with Mooney, she won't just direct you to go after a certain bowler. So, she will keep giving ideas about how the ball is behaving, the areas that we can look to hit. So they keep discussing these things. It is very helpful for us that we can also look at the game like that. So you start looking at things a little differently.

You made your comeback into India's ODI side in December and scored your first century against WI. How pleasing was that?

When you are making a comeback, you have to prove yourself. The people see you as an injured player and keep looking at how you have recovered. You have to be more prepared than how you used to be. For me, it has been like that. When you are making a comeback, everybody should know that you are back.

There wasn't pressure, but when you go through a phase of injury, you just become more grateful about things. When you don't have something, then you realise how important that thing was for you. Even though I was only playing domestic cricket initially after my comeback, I was just so happy to be on the field. I wasn't as happy while scoring a fifty or hundred. I was happier to know that I had just started playing again. You keep learning through that phase.

You haven't played a T20I for India since July 2023. Do you feel you have done enough to earn a comeback?

All these things are not in my control. If you get there, it's good. If you don't, you have to keep working harder to get those things. It's as simple as that. You just have to keep following the process. You don't have to keep planning about what will happen. You have to just react to how you are doing.

You suffered a knee injury three games into WPL 2024. How tough was that phase?

I never had such a long layoff previously. I also wonder now how I went through that phase. I couldn't walk for weeks. It was tough, but I don't feel it was too hard. You just keep learning things through those phases. It has taught me a lot and made me a better person. It helped me to deal with situations. I got time to analyse. The rehab was a little painful, but it taught me a lot of things. Whatever happens, happens for good. You get to know about the people who really care for you. There is more maturity now about how to deal with setbacks.

There are six overseas batters in the top 10 run-getters this season. From the Indian team's perspective, should there be concern that more young domestic batters aren't coming through?

If you see the IPL, it took so many years for these things to come in. There are impactful players coming in. You have just sown the seed, it takes time. Things are going in a good direction, whether it's batting or bowling. Look at Bharti Fulmali. There's Kashvee Gautam. There's Kranti Goud. We just have to be a little more patient and you will see things turning around.

You are probably one of the best fielders going around. What went into you becoming good at it?

I was someone who would just keep playing with the ball in my formative years. The hand-eye coordination becomes a thing. Mainly it is just practice. If you see the good fielders, they are so fit. That is why they become good fielders. For me, fitness is a thing that has helped me become a good fielder. After my injury, it was more difficult to be where I was. When you have set the standard in international cricket, people don't think about the fact that there will be a little hesitation about coming back from an injury. As I play more matches, it will fade away and I will start building more confidence. I am still getting there.

The overall fielding standards haven't been that great in WPL. How can that improve going forward?

It is just a part of the game. Nobody wants to drop a catch. If you see youngsters now, they are trying to make sure they are good fielders. I am seeing a change. They know that the demand of the Indian team and the WPL is to be good in the fielding department.

Any fielder that you really admire?

These days, I love Glenn Phillips' catches. He is amazing. Even Phoebe Litchfield. The way she moves around on the field is so good to see.

Auto fare increase likely as 90% of unions agree on revision terms

Minimum fare to go up from ₹30 to ₹40; for every additional km the charge will be ₹20

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After bus and metro fare hike, autorickshaw fares in the city might also be increased in the coming days. Around 90% of autorickshaw driver unions have now agreed to revise the minimum fare to ₹40 and ₹20 per subsequent kilometre.

Autorickshaw drivers have been demanding a fare revision since last year owing to the increasing prices of commodities, fuel, and inflation. FILE PHOTO

Demand since last year

Currently, after a fare revision in 2021, the minimum fare is fixed at ₹30 and ₹15 for every additional kilometre. Autorickshaw drivers have been demanding a fare revision since last year due to the increasing prices of commodities, fuel and inflation.

On Wednesday, Sahil Bagla, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Traffic, East division, who heads the committee which was formed to submit a report on fare revision, held a meeting with the unions.

"Most of us have agreed to these revisions as it is necessary keeping in mind the inflation. There is one union that is not okay with these rates, but these fares will likely get implemented as 90% of us are on board," said C. Sampath, general secretary, Adarsha Auto Union.

Review awaited

The DCP, however, said that it will take some time for a decision to be made regarding the fare hike. "We will be submitting our report to the authorities concerned in the Transport Department, and they will take a call accordingly," Mr. Bagla told *The Hindu*.

The District Transport Authority will review and take the final call about the revisions.

Mr. Sampath said that the traffic police and transport officials should also conduct a drive to educate auto rickshaw drivers about service and how they should not demand excess while revising the fares.

"They should conduct a drive for at least a year and create awareness about renewal of licenses, permits, consequences of demanding excess fare for systematic change and correction," he said.

7,795 out-of-school children identified in BBMP jurisdiction

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

As per the directions of the Karnataka High Court, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which is conducting a survey, has so far identified 7,795 out-of-school children in its jurisdiction. The survey will continue for another two months, and the number of out-of-school children is expected to increase further.

BBMP has been conducting the survey since February 24 this year in all its eight zonal limits. As per the data till March 12, the BBMP has so far surveyed a total of 1,27,736 children.

Zonal Joint Commissioners have been deputed as nodal officers for this survey. In addition, ward-wise staff are being deployed to conduct the survey and identify out-of-school children within its jurisdiction.

The initiative aligns with Article 21A of the Constitution, which guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14.

Zone-wise break-up

Zone	Children surveyed	Out-of-school children
Bommanahalli	46,710	3,744
Dasarahalli	6,304	393
East	7,921	591
Mahadevapura	4,428	672
Rajarajeshwarinagar	7,311	639
South	40,266	1,188
West	10,217	297
Yelahanka	4,579	271
Total	**1,27,736**	**7,795**

Under the Karnataka Right to Education Rules (2012), local bodies are mandated to maintain records of out-of-school children and ensure their enrollment.

The survey is being conducted using the Karnataka H2H Children Survey App of the Centre for e-Governance. Enumerators, with ten assigned per ward, to conduct door-to-door surveys across BBMP zones.

As per the data till March 12, the BBMP has identified 3,744 out-of-school children in Bommanahalli zone, 393 in Dasarahalli zone, 591 in East zone, 672 in Mahadevapura zone, 639 in Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone, 1,188 in South zone, 297 in West zone and 271 in Yelahanka zone.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Preeti Gehlot, Special Commissioner (Education) of BBMP, said, "Since we are assuming more than 25 lakh households across BBMP jurisdiction, the survey may take another one to two months to complete. After completion of the survey, we will work out an action plan and, along with the Department of School Education and Literacy, Social Welfare Department, BBMP, Labour Department and others will work together to motivate families and bring back the children to the schools."

The Child Rights Trust, which has called the large number of children out of school in BBMP limits a matter of concern, has written a letter to Madhu Bangarappa, Minister of School Education and Literacy, urging him to take immediate action to address the issue.

"Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child has the right to education. India, which signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992, is committed to upholding the rights of children to survival, protection, development and participation. Despite all these laws, it is surprising how a large number of children are out of school in BBMP limits," said Nagasimha G. Rao, Director of the trust, in the letter.

IIMB's batch of 595 gets over 650 offers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

All 595 students of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB)'s Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) and the Post Graduate Programme in Business Analytics (PGP-BA) secured placements in a total of 176 firms. This 2023 - 2025 batch is also the largest placement batch and received a record number of over 650 offers.

The top recruiters were Accenture Strategy (75), Boston Consulting Group (25), TCS Management Consulting (24), American Express (20), Bain & Company (17), PwC (16), McKinsey & Company (14).

Speaking about the final placements, Nishant Verma, Chairperson of Career Development Services, IIMB, said, "Despite being a challenging year for the job market around the world, IIMB conducted the process very efficiently. We are also glad to share that job offers made during the process have set a new benchmark both in terms of the number of offers and the diversity of roles across sectors."

The Student Placement Committee noted that this was the largest batch among all the IIMs during this placement season. "This season witnessed strong participation from both legacy as well as new recruiters, with about 30% being first-time recruiters. We also secured 100+ offers in the lateral placement process, the highest among the top B-schools in India," the committee said.

Report suggests private mobility solutions to decongest city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It also recommends carriage licences for non-commercial vehicles to promote shared mobility services like bike and carpooling

'Decongest Bengaluru,' a report that was submitted to IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday, batted for more private involvement in the city's mobility systems to improve connectivity and reduce traffic.

The report was collated after the Mobility Symposium organised by MoveInSync in collaboration with Outer Ring Road Companies Association in October last year.

The report suggests legislative amendments to the Karnataka Motor Vehicle Act, 1998, to provide state carriage permits to private players to legalise private bus services and ride-sharing options for autorickshaws and taxis. In December last year, a cab aggregator company proposed air-conditioned buses to provide shuttle services on the busy Outer Ring Road in the city, but there has been no known progress in this area. The same company operates shuttle services between Delhi and Gurugram.

Carriage licences

The report also recommends carriage licences for non-commercial vehicles to promote shared mobility services like bike pooling and carpooling. There was also contention about the legality of carpooling apps in the city, as the Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy had said that vehicles with white boards cannot operate for commercial purposes.

Further, recommending the establishment of a nodal agency for coordinating private investments in the mobility sector, the report said, "Currently, there is no formalised process for private sector participation in Bengaluru's mobility solutions, leading to fragmented initiatives across different agencies. If a Global Capability Center wants to invest in improving infrastructure directly outside their premises, they have to coordinate with 5-6 different stakeholders to do so. This lack of framework is holding back infrastructure development, as we're unable to effectively leverage private capital for public good."

It demonstrates the example of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited in which private companies have invested to build metro stations.

More recommendations

A data sharing framework for integrated multi-modal journeys, the passing of the Karnataka Active Mobility Bill, 2022, the formation of the Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority, and increasing the number of buses in the city are some of the other recommendations in the report.

Low-intensity earthquake recorded in Kodagu

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A low-intensity earthquake of 1.6 magnitude was recorded in Kodagu district of Karnataka on Wednesday. According to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), the epicentre of the earthquake was 2.4 km north west of Madegram panchayat in Madikeri taluk of Kodagu district.

The KSNDMC recorded the earthquake at 10.49 a.m.

"As per the seismic intensity map of the earthquake from the epicentre, the intensity observed is low. The tremor might be felt up to a radial distance of 20 km from the epicentre," the KSNDMC said.

"This type of earthquake does not create any harm to the local community, although there may be slight shaking observed locally. The epicentre falls in Seismic Zone III, wherein the possibility of damage due to earthquake is very less. Also, the epicentre is void of any structural discontinuities as per the tectonic map. The community need not panic as the intensity observed is low and not destructive."

The co-ordinates of the earthquake are Lat: 12.4074° N, Long: 75.7051° E, and the depth is 5 km.

Hundreds of hotels in Majestic, but never 100% occupancy

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's Majestic area, once the prime transport hub, has hundreds of hotels offering lodging to the tourists who come in every day as both the Kempegowda Bus Station and Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway station are located here.

Today, most of these hotels see only 50 - 60% occupancy and sometimes even lesser, as more transport hubs have emerged around the city, along with hotels being established all across the city, and the central business district is not the only hub for business anymore.

Standing tall right opposite the bus station is Hotel Mayura, which has more than 120 rooms of different varieties. There was not much activity in the hotel.

"Only around 70 rooms are booked on most days now. Before the metro connected the city, we used to get customers who would routinely stay here, especially businessmen and industrialists. They used to book taxis to Peenya Industrial Area from here.

The other reason why hotels in Majestic don't get as many customers now is because of the lack of parking in the crowded area. FILE PHOTO

But now there are hotels in Peenya itself. So, they do not have to stay here. Plus, this is not the only place where you can find connecting buses now. They can be found in every direction of the city," said Srikanth, receptionist at the hotel.

Sticking to its old-school methods, the hotel does not accept online bookings and only accepts walk-ins. The other reason why hotels in Majestic don't get as many customers now is due to the lack of parking in the crowded area.

"When they can both park their car and avoid the crowds in other areas, why would they come here?" Mr. Srikanth asked.

While these hotels are not the first choice for families like it was earlier, government officials and the corporate crowd still choose these as their base.

"Our bookings are all mostly corporate now. We also have a conference hall, so they host conferences and make their staff stay here. Even if someone wants to go sightseeing, Majestic is the perfect spot to start from as it's in the heart of the city. During the season of conferences, we generally get good bookings, but there have been days when we have had zero bookings too," said Shaqil at the Canary Hotel.

At Hotel Sanman, also near the bus station, were a couple who had come from Chikkamagaluru.

When asked why they chose a hotel in Majestic, they said, "We are here only for one night as we have to catch a train from the railway station. It just made sense to get down the bus and get the nearest hotel," said Pratap, who runs his business in Chikkamagaluru.

With inflow of such customers, hotels have continued to stay afloat amidst the stiff competition in the growing city. But for how long will this continue, the hoteliers themselves don't have answers.

As the Karnataka Budget for 2025-26 announced plans for the redevelopment of the Kempegowda Bus Station at Majestic, The Hindu, in a six-part series, will explore the various facets of the pete area. This is the fourth story in the series.

10th edition of INICIO X held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Commerce's Entrepreneurship Cell at Christ University hosted the 10th edition of its flagship event, INICIO X, recently. The two-day programme featured insightful discussions and inspirational talks aimed at fostering entrepreneurship among students and young innovators.

The event was inaugurated by Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer of The Hindu Group and Independent Director of Jyothy Labs, who highlighted the pivotal role of education in shaping entrepreneurial success.

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF
ELBIT PLAZA INDIA MANAGEMENT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED

1	NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON	ELBIT PLAZA INDIA MANAGEMENT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
2	DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON	25/06/2007
3	AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED / REGISTERED	ROC-Bangalore
4	CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON	U74140KA2007PTC051656
5	ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON	No.2620 (Old No. 101/A), 26th Main, 38th Cross, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560069
6	LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON	10.03.2025
7	NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR, AUTHORISATION FOR ASSIGNMENT (AFA) Validity	CS THIRUPAL GORIGE NO. 87, 2ND FLOOR, 21ST CROSS, 7TH MAIN, N S. PALYA, BTM 2ND STAGE, BANGALORE-560076, KARNATAKA, INDIA CELL +91 94483 84064, LL +080 79634233 EMAIL: GTHIRUPAL@GMAIL.COM IP REG. NO. IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00016/2016-17/10030 AFA valid up to30-06-2025.
8	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	09.04.2025

Notice is hereby given that **Elbit Plaza India Management Services Private Limited** has commenced voluntary liquidation **on 10.03.2025.**

The stakeholders of **Elbit Plaza India Management Services Private Limited** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before **09.04.2025** to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Sd/-
Thirupal Gorige
Liquidator

Date : 12.03.2025
Place : Bangalore

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

MR. M.D.DEVANATHAN, 87, son of Mr. M. Doraiswamy Iyengar passed away on 8th March 2025 at Chennai. Mourned by his wife Mrs.Sudha Devanathan, daughter Anita, son Ashwin, family and friends. Phone: +919444803143

SAD DEMISE

25.08.1935 - 12.03.2025
Shri. M.S. Ramachandran
With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved father who left us on 12-Mar-2025. May his soul rest in peace and be united with the Almighty.
The funeral rites will be held on 13-Mar-2025 at Besant Nagar Crematorium, Chennai at 12.30pm
Deeply mourned by:
Kaushik, Lakshmi, Mahesh, Priya, Sundaresan T V, Meenakshi, Ajay, Vibha, Shriram, Harsha, Varsha, Smriti

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

2ND ANNIVERSARY

16.11.1928 - 13.03.2023
Mrs. Padmini Balachandran
W/o (Late) Prof. V.K.Balachandran
Fondly remembered by
Smt Radhika Rajasenan,
Dr C Rajasenan,
Dr. Shobhana Rajasenan
Vivek Rajasenan
Vikram Vadakkekurputh

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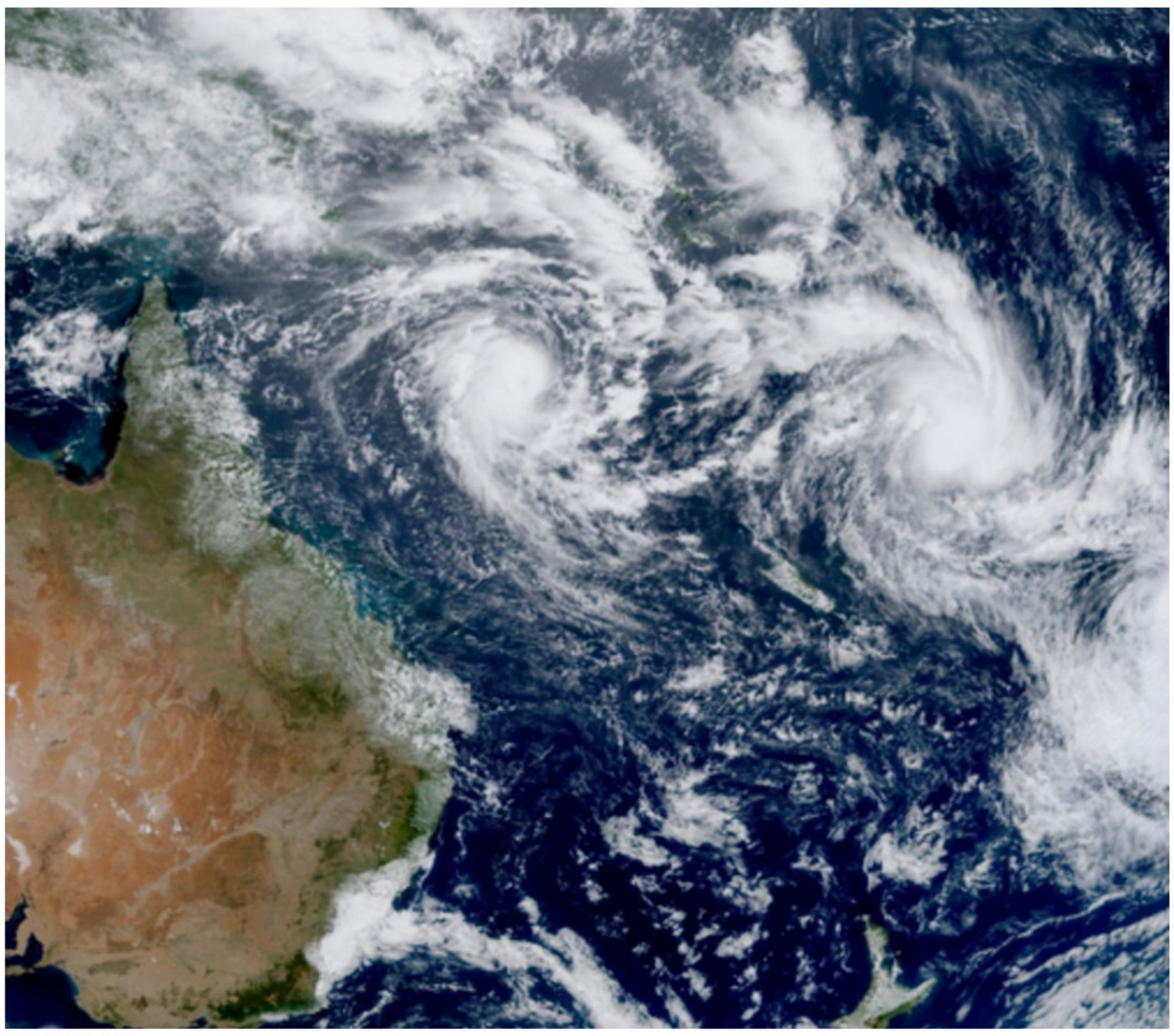
Global coordination can trump efforts to undercut climate predictions

With the U.S. administration under Donald Trump taking a sledgehammer to the NOAA, climate predictions may need to be prepared the same way as the well-coordinated climate projections are in order to protect the overall prediction enterprise from political vagaries and other perturbations

Raghu Murtugudde



Keeping track: The weather is local while climate is global, but a good weather forecast still requires global patterns to be captured and accounted for. AP

In one of his first acts in his second term as President of the United States, Donald Trump fired several hundred employees of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The move triggered a lot of discussion in the climate community and beyond about how it will hurt critical weather and climate services.

The climate community has been working hard to help people adapt to the effects of climate change and build resilience against consequences in the future, so it does not help that the NOAA has now been downsized. While this is unfortunate, this isn't entirely surprising considering the NOAA was also under considerable pressure during Mr. Trump's first term as U.S. President.

Predictions and projections

The weather is local while climate is global, but a good weather forecast still requires global patterns to be captured and accounted for. Climate predictions on the other hand focus on meteorological changes that occur more slowly across multiple seasons. Climate projections offer various possible scenarios for multiple decades to come.

These projection efforts are coordinated closely by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). All the research centres involved in preparing these projections need to follow particular protocols as well as focus on certain previously agreed-upon future scenarios. Once every few years, the IPCC prepares a grand synthesis of all simulations from tens of models to produce an assessment report. The latest such report was issued in 2021-2022.

Climate predictions are national efforts with some coordination under the UN World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), especially for global observational systems. Climate predictions need the models to be prepared by 'initialising' them before each forecast begins. Data from all the relevant sources – including weather-monitoring stations and satellites – are fed into the models responsible for simulating ocean, atmosphere, and land systems. Different prediction centres follow different methodologies during this data assimilation step. Since no single country can cover the globe with its observation systems, global coordination in this enterprise is inevitable.

Climate predictions also tend to be internal efforts. The participating countries under the WMO also merge multiple such predictions to produce a so-called multi-model ensemble.

But as Mr. Trump's decision to take a sledgehammer to the NOAA indicates, we may need to make climate predictions the same way we prepare the well-coordinated climate projections, with redundancies in the global to regional predictions, in order to protect the overall prediction enterprise from political vagaries and other debilitating perturbations.

On the plus side, a globally coordinated climate predictions system will also bring about higher-resolution models and more accurate predictions for all countries. They could also help governments respond better to the rapidly emerging suite of extreme events. Many such events assailed the earth during the record-setting global warming of 2023 and 2024, and this is likely to continue in 2025. Coordinated predictions will also benefit from regular global stocktakes that record the numbers of events that were correctly predicted and how many provided meaningful inputs to governments to prepare for, mitigate, manage, and recover from climate-related disasters.

Towards K-scale modelling

The other critical question is whether the predictions that are available have the requisite spatial resolution required for governments to respond to location-specific disasters. The answer is a clear 'no'. Even climate projections do not offer information at scales required for regional and local adaptation and resilience-building. There have been repeated calls now to move beyond the current suite of coarse resolution models used for predictions and projections, to move towards the use of 1-km scale, or K-scale, models.

Such modelling will require considerable computing resources that no one country can afford – yet it also offers a valuable opportunity to incorporate climate predictions into international climate action. As other experts have also suggested, a global effort can make this happen, with each region and country receiving more accurate and more location-specific early warnings and seasonal outlooks.

Such coordinated K-scale modelling for climate predictions and projections should be a high priority.

A globally coordinated climate predictions system will bring about higher-resolution models and more accurate predictions for all countries. They could also help governments around the world respond better to a rapidly emerging suite of extreme events

This author has already suggested that modellers focus less on projecting the climate until the year 2100 and more on that at the more socially relevant timescales of multiple years to a decade or two.

Modellers currently understand that uncertainties in projections for the first couple of decades are dominated by the natural variability of the climate system plus limitations in the models themselves. The 'IPCC-class' models thus consider innovation in energy and transportation, population growth, carbon capture, and the effects of various climate policies to understand the possible levels of warming by 2100.

These projections are envisioned to capture all eventualities, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the West Asia conflict, and so on – yet it misses the downsizing of the NOAA and the exit of a highly industrialised country from international climate talks.

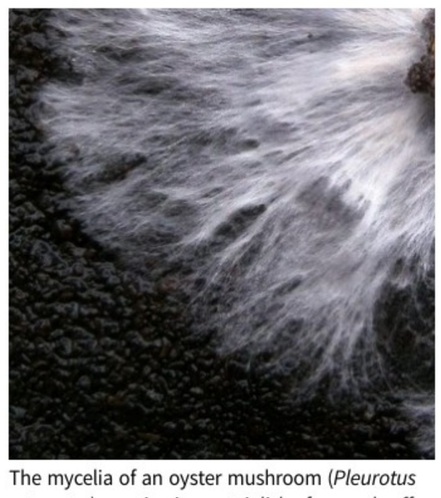
A crucial requirement to build resilience in any sector that depends on government funding or market forces is a cost-benefit analysis that justifies its existence. Obviously, it does not suffice to claim that the value of a service is self-evident. If one prediction center is doing better than another, questions can easily be raised about the size of their workforces and their operational efficiency. If a smaller workforce is consistently able to make better predictions, we need to understand how and replicate it.

This goes beyond Mr. Trump, who has no regard for the effects of the U.S.'s continuing industrialisation on the world's climate. It is instead about a world in which modelling centres and efforts still matter, where public funding is limited even when it is not a zero-sum game, to the extent that the centres need to rationalise their contributions rather than sidestepping audits in the name of a climate "emergency".

Each centre has to be prepared to defend itself with convincing answers to the difficult questions. They may not like the questions but they can still be fair in the larger economic picture. In the same vein, a cost-benefit analysis of the IPCC's projections is also needed to make the climate centres more resilient. Overall, it is crucial to justify the need for continued long-term projections.

All these factors underscore the need for resilient climate prediction efforts as a global enterprise. Any negligence or delay on this front will only leave the centres vulnerable to being pared back themselves. Any system is only as strong as the weakest link.

(Raghu Murtugudde is retired professor, IIT Bombay, and emeritus professor, University of Maryland. mahatma@umd.edu)



The mycelia of an oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) growing in a petri dish of ground coffee seeds. TOBI KELLNER

The promise of mycelium bricks against climate change

Aditya Ansh
NEW DELHI

In the light of climate change, the construction industry like many others is considering how it can reduce its carbon footprint and become more sustainable.

One opportunity is concerned with bricks. Fired clay bricks have been the mainstay of the construction industry but their production also emits nearly 300 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, which could increase with more urbanisation. A new advance on this front is mycelium bricks. Mycelia are the branching filaments of fungi that make up its vegetative part. Researchers have them harnessed to create biodegradable, fire-resistant, and insulative bricks. They are made by combining husk, sawdust, and fungal spores to create a fibrous network that solidifies into a lightweight material. Within a few days, these materials become a hardier structure.

Mycelium bricks have the potential to reduce the building sector's carbon footprint, its proponents have said. They are relatively more lightweight and good insulators of heat. Aside from potential use as panelling material in interior designs, researchers believe mycelium-based components can be used in liquid filters, sports equipment, and printed circuit boards. But before they can find wider use, mycelium materials need to improve in many ways. At present they cannot bear heavier loads for longer periods. One 2020 review found that while mycelium composites have a high strength to weight ratio, it is two orders of magnitude lower than concrete. They are also susceptible to moisture, biodegrade in a few years, and cannot be produced *en masse*. "The cost of growing and treating fungi for construction purposes is currently higher due to lack of infrastructure," Rakesh Jha, a civil engineer and the founder of Patna-based Veritech Infrastructure, said.

Proponents of mycelium bricks have said that they have the potential to reduce the building sector's carbon footprint

While mycelium is naturally fire-resistant, prolonged exposure to heat could cause structural failure. Mycelium composites also absorb more moisture than synthetic foams and plywood, which is inimical for damp environments with leaking walls or roofs. They also do not resist termites. But these are problems to be solved rather than reasons to discard mycelium bricks. For example: "Mycelium can be treated with non-toxic flame retardants that can enhance fire resistance, followed by a UV-protective coating that can prevent photo-degradation in outdoor applications," Jha said. The biggest challenge is consumers' attitude, which experts have said will require more investment in research and development, to make mycelium bricks more competitive with clay bricks, and awareness campaigns to shift.

But thanks to climate change and the advent of concepts like high-performance buildings, interest is already growing in alternative and sustainable materials. "This shift along with policy pushes can drive demand for sustainable alternatives and help in growing the market for mycelium," Aditya Srinivas Kandaala, founder of Roha Biotech, a startup incubated at IIT Madras, said.

(Aditya Ansh is an independent journalist based in New Delhi. adityaansh30@gmail.com)

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for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Discoveries that transformed their fields

Please send in your answers to sciencequiz@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
The accidental discovery of X in 1964 — even though its existence had been predicted in 1948 — set off a series of important studies into the evolution and structure of the universe. For example, in 1987-1988, the examination of one of its features suggested the universe was almost flat, not curved. What is X?

QUESTION 2
In the early 20th century, scientists were struggling to explain how far-flung areas on different continents shared ecological similarities. Name the German geologist who posited an explanation called continental drift, which matured in the next five decades into the theory of plate tectonics.

QUESTION 3
While a variety of ancient philosophers imagined the earth could be orbiting a "fire" at the centre of the universe, Nicolaus Copernicus presented its first mathematical model. Likewise, who introduced the concept of elliptical orbits in this heliocentric model?

QUESTION 4
In 1859, Charles Darwin introduced the theory of natural selection as the means by which species evolve. Name the American scientist who found that mutations in genes are the fundamental biological source of diversity.

QUESTION 5
Before the discovery of oxygen and the process known as oxidation, scholars explained combustion by positing that combustible objects contained an element called _____ that became liberated when the objects caught fire. Fill in the blank.

Visual: The work of Edward Lorenz, Ellen Fetter, and the woman above helped prove there are natural systems like the weather that evolve very differently if their initial conditions are tweaked only a little. Name her. DAPHNE WELD NICHOLS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Answers to March 11 quiz:
1. The type site of the Indus civilisation – **Ans: Harappa**
2. Major city located in the Cholistan Desert – **Ans: Ganeriwala**
3. ASI officer who confirmed Mohenjo-daro's antiquity – **Ans: R.D. Banerji**
4. Neolithic settlement overlapping with Indus civilisation – **Ans: Mehrgarh**
5. Name of bronze statue found in Mohenjo-daro – **Ans: Dancing Girl**

First contact
K.N. Viswanathan | Dinesh Kumar | Shreya Raj | Sheney Muraly | Sreejith Santhoshkumar

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GMCs
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ALLENites secured their seat in Govt. Medical Colleges (2024)

OLYMPIADS
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Selections in Indian National Olympiads (INO) 2025

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25 AIR#1
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ALLENites from Karnataka: Triumphs of 2024-25

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Students got Into IIT & NIT Colleges in 2024

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MBBS Selections in 2024

JIPMER
34
Selections in 2024

OLYMPIADS
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Selections in Indian National Olympiads (INO) 2025

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For students moving from class 11th to 12th
JEE Main + Adv. : 3rd April 2025
JEE Main : 3rd April
KCET : 3rd April
NEET UG : 3rd April 2025

CRASH COURSE
For class 12th pass students
NEET UG - 20th & 30th March
KCET - 20th & 30th March

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Class 10 : 3rd April
Class 9 : 3rd April
Class 6 to 8 : 3rd April

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A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Employees who are burned out due to poor work-life balance

52 in per cent. The survey, which was conducted by the Vertex Group, gathered insights from over 1,500 working individuals across five States — Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh. It also revealed that over 23% of employees work beyond the regular working hours. PTI

Amount spent on ads by BJP government in Assam over four years

370 in ₹ crore. The BJP government came to power in Assam for the second time in 2021, under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The State government led by Sarbananda Sonowal, had spent ₹125.6 crore in the five fiscals since 2016-17 on advertisements. PTI

Scale of the welfare programme Donald Trump is halting

1 in $ billion. This action threatens projects that keep tens of thousands of units livable for low-income Americans and is part of a slew of cuts at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, largely at the direction of President Donald Trump and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency. PTI

Number of pacts inked between India and Mauritius

8 The pacts were signed to boost cooperation in several sectors including trade and maritime security. The objective of the pacts is to promote the use of national currencies for cross-border transactions; the sharing of maritime data; and enhancing cooperation in the MSME sector. PTI

The amount approved for the development of Amaravati

37 in ₹ thousand crore. Andhra Pradesh Municipal Minister P. Narayana announced that the Capital Region Development Authority has approved tenders for 59 development projects to facilitate the construction of the capital city, Amaravati. PTI

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Will Musk be expelled from the Royal Society?

Why are some fellows of the Royal Society in Britain demanding the removal of billionaire Elon Musk from the Society? Have scientists resigned over the issue? Why is the Society hesitant on being seen as taking a 'political' decision? Why was Musk given membership in the first place?

EXPLAINER

Atanu Biswas

The story so far:

The 365-year-old Royal Society in Britain, one of the most reputed scientific institutions in the world, is experiencing a crisis that raises fundamental concerns about the role of a top scientific institution. The Royal Society's former members include notable figures like Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, and Stephen Hawking, among others. Becoming a member of the Royal Society is frequently regarded as the culmination of an extensive research career, and fellows are chosen after a rigorous process. The Royal Society also imposes a code of conduct on its fellows once they are elected. Of late, there has been a growing demand to rescind Elon Musk's fellowship for violating the code.

Who is making the demand?

In 1775, the German scientist and writer Rudolf Erich Raspe was expelled from the Royal Society after being accused of "divers frauds and gross breaches of trust". Today, the actions of the world's richest man has been deemed a "threat to science" by numerous scientists.

The first fellow of the Royal Society to resign over this matter was Dorothy Bishop, emeritus professor of developmental neuropsychology at the University of Oxford. In 2024, she lodged two complaints with the Royal Society. "On both occasions they consulted lawyers, and it may well be the case that the lawyers are concerned about the prospect of legal action," she told the *BBC*. Another fellow, Andrew Millar of the University of Edinburgh, did the same in February this year.

An open letter to the president of the Royal Society, currently British statistician Adrian Smith, has been signed by almost 3,500 members of the wider scientific community. Stephen Curry, an emeritus professor of structural biology at Imperial College London, penned it and expressed similar dismay. Fellow of the Royal Society, AI pioneer, and 2024 physics Nobel Prize winner Geoffrey Hinton also wrote on X that he was in favour of Mr. Musk's removal. "I think Elon Musk should be expelled from the British Royal Society. Not because he peddles conspiracy theories and makes Nazi salutes, but because of the huge damage he is doing to scientific institutions in the US," Mr. Hinton wrote. Mr. Musk replied: "Only craven, insecure fools care about awards and memberships".

Scientific temper: U.S. President Donald Trump and Elon Musk shake hands in front of a Tesla cybertruck, at the White House in Washington, on March 11. REUTERS

What have been the charges?

Many fellows believe the billionaire's inflammatory remarks on British politicians have breached the Royal Society's code of conduct. Scientists have also expressed concerns regarding Mr. Musk's conduct within the current Donald Trump administration. In his leading position at the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (or DOGE), Mr. Musk has overseen unprecedented cuts to funding meant for scientific research. He has also been spreading false material and engaging in political propaganda on his social media platform, X. His company Neuralink recently reported developing a novel brain-computer interface. Although this is a worthwhile objective, the research methodology is distinguished by Mr. Musk's resistance to allowing others to influence his methods. This has resulted in allegations of non-compliance with 'Good Laboratory Practice' regulations. Additionally, Mr. Musk's slanderous charges against public scientists like Anthony Fauci and other public personae have also drawn criticism from a number of scientists. Mr. Musk is also accused of encouraging vaccine hesitancy and baselessly doubting the foundations of climate change science.

Why has he not been expelled?

The Royal Society counts more than 1,700 fellows, and at least 60 of them have signed Mr. Curry's letter to have Mr. Musk expelled. But not everyone in the scientific community agrees with it. For instance, Nobel laureate Andre Geim of Manchester University stated, "Musk is certainly an eccentric, but his achievements beat those of any of his critics in the Royal Society. Very few can say that they achieved similar [feats] in their lives." According to the Society, Mr. Musk was elected in 2018 ostensibly in appreciation of his contributions. He was the lead designer at SpaceX, where he oversaw the development of reusable rockets and spacecraft for missions to earth orbit. He oversaw the design, engineering, and manufacturing of products for the electric car company Tesla, which first popularised EVs. He also developed ultra-high bandwidth brain-machine interfaces to connect the brain to computers at Neuralink.

It might be politically challenging to revoke Mr. Musk's fellowship at a time of increasing tensions between the U.S. and the U.K. Some have claimed that removing Mr. Musk could undermine public confidence in science as it would erode the integrity of science by obfuscating its separation from politics.

What next?

Following a meeting of the body on March 3, 2025, Elon Musk's Royal Society fellowship is still in place. A statement by the Society following the meeting did not mention Musk. The group decided to "look at potential further actions" that would "counter the misinformation and ideologically motivated attacks on both science and scientists."

Atanu Biswas is professor of statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

THE GIST

- The first fellow of the Royal Society to resign over this matter was Dorothy Bishop, emeritus professor of developmental neuropsychology at the University of Oxford. In 2024, she lodged two complaints with the Royal Society.
- The Royal Society counts more than 1,700 fellows, and at least 60 of them have signed Mr. Curry's letter to have Mr. Musk expelled. But not everyone in the scientific community agrees with it.
- Some have claimed that removing Mr. Musk could undermine public confidence in science as it would erode the integrity of science by obfuscating its separation from politics.

Is the government stifling the online gaming sector?

Online skill-based gaming has the potential to harness programming, design, and storytelling talent to leapfrog India to the top of the tech leader board globally

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rajeev Gowda

The Economic Survey 2024-25 has called for "accelerating and amplifying the deregulation agenda", and has urged the government to "get out of the way" so that businesses can go about their business. While this sounds enticing, what does deregulation mean in practical terms? How should the government take the deregulation agenda forward?

The gaming sector's potential

Target areas for deregulation can be found by surveying the regulatory landscape to identify where the heavy hand of the government is hampering growth. One such domain is the online gaming sector. The judiciary brought attention back on the need to deregulate the sector through a 2025 Supreme Court stay order on the Union government's retrospective GST demand on the online gaming sector to the tune of ₹1.12 lakh crore. How did this come about?

Online skill-based gaming is a sunrise sector, where three startups have already transformed into unicorns. It has the potential to harness programming, design, and storytelling talent to leapfrog India to the top of the tech leader board globally. India, with 650 million smartphone users and half the population below the age of 35, can outshine other countries in online gaming from the perspective of technology innovation and financial returns. A PwC report pegs online gaming as among the fastest growing sectors in India, accounting for ₹33,000 crore in 2023, and projected to reach ₹66,000 crore, growing at a CAGR of 14.5% between 2023-2028. Online gaming could create an additional 2-3 lakh direct and indirect jobs in the next few years, in addition to the two lakh jobs already generated.

Tax imposition

While the State governments of Karnataka and Telangana are rolling out policies to promote animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics sectors, such positive steps have paled against the instincts of the tax collector. Union and State governments have unanimously slapped a 28% GST on online gaming, a rate usually reserved for public 'harms' such as gambling, liquor, and tobacco. Some State governments had even imposed bans on online gaming, classifying them as part of gambling, which the courts overturned and termed unconstitutional, as "games of skill" are legal and cannot be classified as gambling. Such futile legal diversions waste government and industry resources.

The apparent trigger for such regulatory interventions was the conflation of online gaming with online gambling. There are lessons for those in the online gaming sector from this confusion. Clearly families and regulators are concerned about users' problematic online practices. The industry should therefore strengthen protections against excessive use. For example, by analysing data it possesses about users' behaviour, it can create individually-customised safeguards which prevent problematic practices on their platforms.

The Union government's effort to wring the online gaming sector dry is a black warrant for online gaming, as smaller startups will go bankrupt or simply shut shop. It will also spur the growth of illegal gambling and betting sites, which are already flourishing, typically operating offshore beyond the reach of our regulators.

An effective way for the government to commence its new wave of deregulation would be to rationalise GST rates and co-craft a regulatory framework with the online gaming industry. But the first step is to drop the unjustifiable retrospective GST demand which threatens to eclipse this sunrise sector.

M. V. Rajeev Gowda is a former Member of Parliament and Ex Professor of Public Policy at IIM Bangalore. These views are personal.

THE GIST

- A PwC report pegs online gaming as among the fastest growing sectors in India, accounting for ₹33,000 crore in 2023, and projected to reach ₹66,000 crore.
- Union and State governments have unanimously slapped a 28% GST on online gaming, a rate usually reserved for public 'harms' such as gambling, liquor, and tobacco.
- An effective way for the government to commence its new wave of deregulation would be to rationalise GST rates and co-craft a regulatory framework with the online gaming industry.

Tech fest held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The department of MCA at R.V. Institute of Technology and Management hosted the two-day ADVAYA TechFest.

Around 300 undergraduate and PG students participated. The event was graced by B.P. Srinivas, manager of Power Management at INTEL, and Aravind Kumar Kolly, principal quality assurance software engineer at Extreme Networks.

AICTE hosts awareness workshop on Sarswati scholarship scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) organised an awareness workshop on the Sarswati scholarship scheme and other AICTE-funded schemes on March 8. The event celebrated International Women's Day at BMS College of Engineering in Bengaluru.

Sarswati scholarship scheme is for meritorious students pursuing BBA/ BMS/BCA courses. Over 1,400 students participated. Aruna C. Newton, vice-president, Infosys, emphasised the significance of financial aid in fostering gender equality and expanding higher education opportunities for women. AICTE chairman T.G. Sitharam highlighted the importance of AICTE initiatives that benefit students.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka has accorded Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Construction of Tech Park by M/s. Max Global Developers at Sy. No. 102/1,102/2B, 102/6, 103/1 & 103/2 of Sulikunte Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District (File No.: SEIAA 11 CON 2024) dated 10.03.2025 under the provision of EIA Notification, 14th September 2006.

Copy of the Clearance Letter is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the PARIVESH portal.

(Authorized Signatory)
Mr. R.S. Vinay Kumar Reddy

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
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E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of **Drugs to Sale Counter of TNMSC Ltd** for two years from the date of acceptance of the tender.

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of **Drugs to Sale Counter of TNMSC Limited** under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-004/M(P)/ SALE/ TNMSC/ 2025, Dated. 14.03.2025	14.03.2025 at 3.00 PM to 28.03.2025 upto 10.00 AM	17.03.2025 at 10.00 AM to 28.03.2025 upto 10.00 AM	28.03.2025 at 11.00 AM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR/ 992 /TENDER/2025

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWDept.Shimoga Division, Shimoga

POSTPONED OF TENDER NOTIFICATION

No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-2/IFT-40/M-1/2024-25 Dtd:10-03-2025
Ref:1)EE/PWD/Smg/AE-2/IFT-40/2024-25 Dtd:03-03-2025

With above ref Tender invited through KPP portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) The work of Hosanagara Taluk Sl.no (3) (Indent 19828) is postponed due to the technical reason and dates for downloading & submission for the work is given below.

SL No. 1. Revised Date for Tender Documents Dowloading: 11-03-2025 To 18-03-2025 **Last Date of Receipt:** 18-03-2025

For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 & Helpdesk No 080-3010900/23010901

Sd/- Exe.Engr., PWD,Shimoga Division, Shimoga

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KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No:KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT/2645 Date: 18.02.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through KPP portal only) (Two Cover System)

Tenders are invited (through KPP portal) from the eligible Bidders for **Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 01 No. of New Main Inlet Valve (MIV) & 2 Nos. of Nozzle Assembly for 1st Stage Generating Units and Dismantling of existing valve & associated equipments at MGHE Power House.** The details of NIT and brief bid notification can also be seen on KPCL website: **www.kpcl.karnataka.gov.in** and **https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Bid document can downloaded from GoK e-Procurement website:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under login for Contractors. The last date for submission of bid document is **up to 15.00 Hrs on 20.03.2025** Further details can be had from **Chief Engineer (Electrical Designs), KPCL, 3rd Floor, Drug Control Office Premises, No.3, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Telephone No.8197584194 website:www.kpcl.karnataka.gov.in e-Mail:ceedkpcl@karnataka.gov.in, ceedkpcl@gmail.com**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370,
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Tender Notification No. 48/2024-25 DATED: 11.03.2025

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD DEVANAHALLI Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published for 01 works **(Rs. 900.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.

Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

1.Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM** on Dated: **26.03.2025**

2.The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **27.03.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/5620/Zen/2024-25 **PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.**

RAICHUR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
Raichur District Urban Development Cell

TENDER NO:30242 DCRAI-PD0ENGG/23/2023-PD(UD)-RAICHUR Dated: 10-03-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-4)

The Project Director, District Urban Development Cell, Raichur District, Raichurinvites tenders in two cover system through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal(KPPP) with URLhttps://kppp.karnataka.gov.infrom experienced and eligible agencies for "Selection of agency for undertaking bio-mining, bio-remediation, processing, disposal of legacy waste and reclamation of land in different ULBs of Raichur district as per Central Pollution Board Guidelines and National Green Tribunal directions."TheKPPP Tender number is DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT7179/Call-4. Estimated cost of work is Rs765.43lakhs(Amount put to Bid is Rs763.79 lakhs) and EMD to be paid is Rs.9,70,000.00 and Performance Security Deposit is 5% of the Contract value. Date & time of uploading Financial Tender document on KPPP: 07-04-2025 at 04:30 p.m. Pre bid meeting 26-03-2025 at 12.30 p.m Last date & time for submitting proposal for the service through KPPP:08-04-2025 up to 4:30 p.m. Date of opening of technical bid of the proposal through KPPP:09-04-2025 at 5:30 p.m. Date of Opening of Financial bid of the proposal through KPPP:11-03-2025 at 11:00 a.m. For detailed RFP notification the proposers may visit website www.raichurdudc.mrc.gov.in.

DIP/RCR/811/KSMCA/812/2024-25

SD/- DEPUTY COMMISSIONER RAICHUR DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.Lakshmana.A S/o Sri.Armugam** to bring the notice of the general public that the Original registered absolute sale deed bearing doc.No.YAN-1-14529/2005-06 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.YAND172, date.21.02.2006, registered in the office of the sub-registrar Yelahanka, Bangalore is missing / lost / misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential site bearing BBMP Khata No.371/100/768, in **Sy.No.100,** situated at **Jakkur Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangaluru North Taluk,** now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West **18.50 feet** and North to South **30 feet**, totally measuring **555 Sq.feet,** and bounded on : **East by : House of Bhagyamma, West by : House of Anjinappa, North by : Road, South by : House of Rathnamma.**

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

(Public Works Department)
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur

Invitation for Tender (I.F.T) No.22/2024-25 Date:06.03.2025

(For Road /Building Works -As per standard Bid Document KW 1 & 4 in two cover system.)

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **Date: 06.03.2025 to 17.03.2025 up to 04 pm & 20.03.2025 upto 4pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Chikkaballapur

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:415/KSMCA/2024-25

KARNATAKA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.,

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560038.
Ph No.: 080-25196100/25196124 | e-mail: info@kuidfc.com

No.: KUIDFC/Admn/Housekeeping/Tender/CR-291/2025-26 Date: 11.03.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

KUIDFC Bengaluru invites tenders for hiring **Housekeeping cum office attenders, gardeners and plumber services** for a period of One year from the reputed manpower supplying Agency/ Firm. The tender document will be available on KPP Portal of GoK (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) from **13.03.2025 to 27.03.2025 up to 17.30 hrs.** The bidders can view, download & upload the proposals only through KPP Portal. For any further notification please refer KPP Portal.

DIPR/CP/JA/5622/2024-25

Sd/-
General Manager (Admin)

Zilla Panchayath, Tumkur
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Tumkur

NO.32/EE/RDWS&SD/TMK/JJM-support AE&JE /6640/ 2024-25 Date: 07.03.2025

Tender Notification

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Tumkur Invites Tender For JJM – Support Assistant Engineer and Junior Engineer Through Manpower service Agencies on Out Source basis .The Eligible Bidders Are Required To Submit Through Karnataka Public Procurement mode through portal. (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) (Minimum Tender Amount Rs.69.30Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.1,38,600/-)

Particulars & Details: 1. Last date of submit bids on Karnataka Public Procurement portal **17-03-2025** Upto 17.00 Hours. 2. Pre Bid Meeting (KW-3 works) Date:**14-03-2025** at 11.00 AM Venue, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division Tumkur. 3. Technical Opening of Bids: **18-03-2025** at 17.30 PM onwards. 4. Financial Opening of Bids **20-03-2025** at 11.00 A M onwards.

For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)

Sd/- Executve Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Tumkur.

DIPR/TUM/694/KSMCA/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail: khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com
ಸಂ.ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–3/ಟೆಂಡರ್–27/2024–25
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.03.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ Providing and constructing approach Road From SSH to Teaching Hospital Block in HIMS Campus at Hassan (ರೂ.95.50 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಮಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 24.03.2025 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 25.03.2025 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳ ಬಹುದು. **ಸೂಚನೆ:** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR-DD-MYS/1425/KSMCA-1057/2024-25

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Ph : 080 - 4110 6508
e-mail:cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through KPPP only)

1) No. KWB/TEC/CE(B)/HSK/BAL-UGD/1286/2024-25; Dtd: 12.03.2025

Name of the work : Construction of 1.82 MLD STP with allied works, Providing and laying outfall sewer line, Supply, Erection, Electrification & Commissioning of DG sets, 11 KV express feeder line through Design, Build and Transfer (DBT) Mode (Lumpsum Tender - No Variation) under UGD scheme to Hosakote City under UIDST. **INDENT NO. KUWSDB/2024-25/ WS/WORK_INDENT 256/ Call-4**

For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/5614/AKAR/2024-25

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B), KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–32/ಎಇ–3/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 11.03.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ–32/ ಎಇ–3/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.03.2025.

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ, ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ **ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054–04–337–0–01–154 ಯೋಜನೆ(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳು ಸುಧಾರಣೆ) ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (ವರ್ಕ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂ: 19002 & 18908) ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 400.00 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 27.03.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/838/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

Government of Karnataka
Department of Information and Public Relations
"Vartha Soudha", No. 17, Bhaghavan Mahaveer Road (Infantry Road). Bengaluru 500 001.

No:DIPR/VJ-MOK DIG/2024-25/ SE0019 Date: 07.03.2025

Short term E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short-term e-Tenders are invited in a two-cover system for Digitization of monthly magazines Vartha Janapada and March of Karnataka through development of a mobile application and a web platform

The successful bidder will be responsible for executing the entire process in compliance with the guidelines set by the DIPR. Interested tenderers / bidders can download the tender document from the e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The deadline for submitting tenders is **March 15, 2025, by 3:00 PM.** Technical bids will be opened on **March 17, 2025 at 11:00 AM** and financial bids will be opened on **March 19, 2025, at 11:00 AM.** For further details, please contact 9480841219.

DIPR/CP/5612/2024-25

Sd/-
Commissioner, DIPR

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Mahadevapura Division, BBMP, Bengaluru.

No. EE(RI-MDP)/TEND/04/2024-2025 Date: 12.03.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure- Mahadevapura Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender
1	Additional Grants for Road Widening at Mahadevapura Zone Limits.	**Rs. 420.16 lakhs**
	EMD : Rs. 1,00,000/- through e-Payment and Rs. 3,20,160/- through e-Bank Guarantee as per bid document)	

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 12.03.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting **: 20.03.2025 at 16.00 hrs. in the Office of the Engineer in Chief, BBMP, Room No. 108, Annex-2 Building, N.R.Square, Bengaluru. (3)** Last date for receipt of queries : **20.03.2025 at 11.00 am. (4)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **27.03.2025 upto 16.00 hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Technical bids : **28.03.2025 at 16.30 hrs. (6)** Date of opening of Financial bids : **will be intimated after obtaining approval for technical evaluation.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI - Mahadevapura Division BBMP

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayath Building, S.Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, (Near Banashankari Temple), Bangalore-560070.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-2/42/2024-25 Dated:11.03.2025

KPPP TENDER NOTICE
(SINGLE COVER SYSTEM)

TENDER NOTIFICATION No.42/2024-25

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D Bangalore Urban, For Deposit Grants works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Website the Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated:27.03.2025 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or Contact this office during office working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAA/5619/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer (Project - East), Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose Building (PUB), 21st Floor, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

No: EE/P-E/Tend/15/2024-25 Date: 10-03-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Project - East Division), East Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Construction of Compound Wall and Other Maintenance Works of Crematoriums and Burial Grounds in East Zone. **Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00**
2	Improvements and Upgradation of In and Around Richards Park in Pulikeshinagara Constituency in East Zone. **Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00**

Calendar of Events: **1)** The Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13-03-2025. 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **25-03-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of the Technical Bid Tenders is **26-03-2025 after 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Project - East Division, BBMP.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Noel James Stephen Dias S/O, Anthony Joseph Dias R/o 260/1, 20th C Cross Ejipura Main Road, Ejipura, Viveknagar Post, Bengaluru-560047 have changed my name to Noel James Dias for all purposes.

I, PRIYANKA Shahapurkar W/o Bharath.M.R, #RH-170, 11th Block, Arkavathy Layout, Manyatha Tech Park Gate-5, Shivaramkaranthnagar, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to Priyanka Jayavant Shahapurkar vide affidavit dt 03.03.25 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bengaluru.

I, KUMAR Ritesh S/O Avinash Kumar Gupta R/O 17146, Prestige Song Of The South Begur Koppa Road, Yelenahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560068 have changed my minor son name from Reyansh Gupta to Reyanssh Riteshh Gupta for all future purposes.

I, Sangeetha Srinivasan, w/o Srinivasan Jagannathan,residing at D13, Pradhan Pelican, AS nagar, BTM VI stage, OFF BDA road, Nynnappanahalli, Bangalore 560068, have changed my name to Sangeetha Sudhirkumar, as per affidavit, IN-KA76611352919921X, dated, 11 March 2025 before Notary Jain Swarnamala, B'lore.

I, PATIL Vikas Laxman S/o. Laxman Krishna Patil, R/o. LV-3, Ground Floor, Lakshmi Krupa, 3rd Cross, Near Murugan Temple, Church Street Road, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru- 560 017 have changed my name from Patil Vikas Laxman to Vikas Laxman Patil vide affidavit dated 11-03-2025 before A.R. Muneer Ahmed Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, A. Munisamy Raja S/O M. Arumugam, born on 12th June 1985, residing at 1/2, Thamaleri Muthur, Tirupattur District, Tamil Nadu–635853, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Charan Arumugam for all purpose.

I, ANUBHA Sah W/O Riteshh Avinash Gupta R/O 17146, Prestige Song Of The South Begur Koppa Road, Yelenahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560068 have changed my name to Anubbha Riteshh Gupta for all future purposes.

I, KUMAR Ritesh S/O Avinash Kumar Gupta R/O 17146, Prestige Song Of The South Begur Koppa Road, Yelenahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560068 have changed my name to Riteshh Avinash Gupta for all future purposes.

I, K Ramya Ranganayaki spouse of Kalavakuri Sandeep Kumar, who is presently working in IAF & staying at Qtr no. 66/5, Gaganvihar, Murugeshpalyam, Bangalore, have changed my name from K Ramya Ranganayaki to Pamidigantam Ramya Ranganayaki vide affidavit date 22 Feb 25 sworn before notary AR Munner Ahmed, B'lore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PUNARV K GOWDA**, S/o Late Dr. C.Krishnappa, age 34 years, R/at No. 20, Summane, 1st Floor, 196/2, 198/2, Near Abhudaya School Road, Adichunchanagiri Layout, Manasi Nagara, Mysore-570029 today at Bengaluru do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PUNYASHREE V K** to **PUNARV K GOWDA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **PUNARV K GOWDA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 19th Oct. 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P.N. NAGESHA** at Bangalore.

LOKNITI-CSDS

On perceptions about Europe: job prospects and the Russia-Ukraine war

This survey explores Indian's perception about Europe as an attractive destination for both education and employment, reinforcing the perception of long-term career benefits. It also analyses Indian sentiments about the Russia-Ukraine war across different types of cities. These findings suggest that higher education levels strongly correlate with greater awareness

Jyoti Mishra
Vibha Attri
Krishangi Sinha

The perception of Europe as a land of better job opportunities has been growing among Indians, particularly among the younger and more educated population. This belief is shaped by multiple factors, including higher wages, career growth prospects, and lifestyle advantages. A well-established Indian diaspora in Europe significantly influences migration aspirations. Many Indians have relatives or acquaintances who have settled in European countries, which influences their perception of employment prospects. Word-of-mouth recommendations, social media influence, and success stories of Indian expatriates contribute to a positive image of working in Europe. Many Indian students pursue higher education in European universities, which often provide post-study work opportunities. As a result, Europe remains as an attractive destination for both education and employment, reinforcing the perception that the region offers long-term career benefits. This article explores the reasons behind this perception, drawing on data collected by the Lokniti-CSDS in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

Employment opportunities

A substantial proportion of Indians (63%) believe that Europe offers better employment opportunities than India (Table 1). This perception is especially pronounced in smaller towns, where job prospects are relatively limited. Nearly three in four (72%) respondents from small cities believe that Europe provides better job opportunities compared to three in five in mid-sized and big cities (Table 2). The attraction to the European job market stems from the presence of structured career growth opportunities, professional development programs, and access to high-skilled jobs that may not be as readily available in India. Moreover, countries such as Germany, the U.K., and France have introduced policies that encourage skilled migration.

Additionally, according to the survey, nearly 62% of respondents believe that workers in Europe earn more than their Indian counterparts for the same work (Table 3). This wage disparity is reinforced by personal networks, as individuals with family or relatives in Europe are more likely to perceive a substantial difference in earnings. Nearly three in four (72%) respondents with family members working abroad believe that people in Europe earn more for the same work, compared to three in five among those without such family connections (Table 4). Indian professionals and skilled workers believe that their skills are valued more highly in European job markets, where competitive salaries, social security benefits, and better working conditions provide strong financial incentives.

The aspiration for better employment prospects has led many Indians to consider relocating to Europe. Nearly one in six (15%) respondents in the survey reported plans to apply for a work visa to Europe, while some have already initiated the process. Among those seeking employment abroad, the key motivations include higher wages (38%), career growth opportunities (21%), and access to developed infrastructure (7%) (Table 5).

Beyond employment and wages, lifestyle factors also influence perceptions of Europe as a desirable work destination. More than half (51%) of survey respondents believe that life in Europe is more comfortable than in India whereas a little over one in four (27%) don't agree with this. This belief is strongest among younger (60%) and highly educated individuals (57%), while it declines with age and lower education levels. Factors contributing to this perception include access to superior healthcare, better public infrastructure, and social welfare benefits. Exposure to Western media, including films and social media, has reinforced the idea that Europe offers a higher standard of living (Table 6).

On the Russia-Ukraine war

The Russia-Ukraine war continues to significantly impact global geopolitics. And as the war enters its fourth year it is important to understand Indian public opinion on Russia's actions, which seems to remain complex and fractured. When asked about the issue, 27% of respondents believed that Russia's actions were necessary, while a larger section, 34%, viewed them as unjustified. However, a notable proportion of respondents, 23%, admitted to being unaware of the issue. This lack of awareness highlights a significant knowledge gap among Indians when it comes to international affairs. Furthermore, 16% of respondents chose not to express an opinion on the matter (Table 7). These findings collectively underscore the complexity and diversity of Indian perspectives on Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Education and awareness

The study yielded a significant finding regarding the impact of education in shaping public opinion about the war (Table 8). Among respondents with limited or no formal education, a substantial 42% were unaware about the issue. Moreover, only 19% of this group viewed Russia's actions as unjustified, suggesting a relatively low level of engagement with international affairs. In the case of respondents with intermediate/under graduate level of education, there was a significant percentage who believed that Russia's actions were necessary (27%), followed by another 27% of respondents not being aware about the war and 24% of the respondents believing Russia's actions are unjustified. In contrast, respondents with a college education exhibited a markedly different profile. A significant 41% of this group criticised Russia's actions, indicating a stronger stance on the issue. Furthermore, only 16% of college-educated respondents were unaware of the conflict, highlighting a substantially higher level of awareness and engagement with global events. These findings suggest that higher education levels strongly correlate with greater awareness, critical thinking, and opinion formation on global affairs.

Exposure to the Western world through different mediums emerged as a significant factor in shaping Indian perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict as highlighted in Table 9. Respondents with no exposure to Western entertainment were more likely to be not aware about the conflict (37%) or refrained from expressing an opinion (27%). There was a comparatively small per cent of respondents with no exposure who felt Russia's actions were necessary at 16%, in contrast to 21% who considered the actions unjustified. In contrast, individuals with moderate exposure to western entertainment exhibited more defined views. Notably, those with moderate exposure were more likely to view Russia's actions as unjustified at 44% in contrast to 32% considering it necessary. Those with high exposure were almost equally divided between viewing Russia's actions as necessary (39%) and 37% considering it unjustified. These findings suggest that familiarity with Western media may have played a role in shaping perspectives on the conflict, highlighting the influence of global media on public opinion.

The study also explored how opinions on the Russia-Ukraine conflict varied across cities of different sizes as highlighted in Table 10. Interestingly, the data revealed that respondents from smaller cities were the most critical of Russia's actions, with a significant 41% deeming them unjustified. In the case of mid-sized cities, 31% considered Russia's action as unjustified and 26% considered it justified. Among respondents from big cities, 31% considered Russia's actions necessary, and 32% considered Russia's action as unjustified. There was also a percentage of respondents across different city types who had no opinion on Russia's action, with 18% in small cities, 16% in mid-sized cities and 17% in big cities. The findings imply that the complexity of urban environments, with their diverse populations and information ecosystems, can lead to a more polarised public discourse on international issues.

These findings underscore the complexity of Indian perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, revealing that socio-economic and cultural factors significantly influence public opinion. These factors contribute to a nuanced public discourse, highlighting the diversity of perspectives within society.

The authors are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS. This analysis is based on data collected during a comprehensive study on Indian Perceptions of Europe and Germany, jointly undertaken by Lokniti-CSDS with financial support from the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, India Office. You can read more about these surveys at thehindu.com

Indian sentiments about events in Europe

The perception of Europe as a land with a better quality of life has been growing among Indians, particularly among the younger and more educated population. This survey seeks to understand what the average Indian thinks about the continent in relation to their own country

For a better life: A substantial proportion of Indians believe that Europe offers better employment opportunities than India. Factors contributing to this perception include access to superior healthcare, better public infrastructure, and social welfare benefits

Table 1: Most Indians think Europe has better job prospects

Europe has better employment opportunities	(%)
Yes	63
No	16
Don't know	21

Question asked: Do you think Europe has better employment opportunities than India?

Table 2: Indians residing in small cities think Europe has better job prospects

City-type	Europe has better employment opportunities (%)
Small cities	72
Mid-sized cities	60
Big cities	60

Note: The rest either said no or did not respond

Question asked: Do you think Europe has better employment opportunities than India?

Table 3: Pay disparity between India and Europe for similar work

Who is paid more for the same amount of work?	(%)
People in India are paid more	9
People in Europe are paid more	62
Both are paid equally	15

Note: The rest did not respond

Question asked: Some people believe that people living in Europe are paid more for the same work as people in India. Others believe that Indians are paid more for the same work that people do in Europe. What is your opinion?

Table 4: Perception of pay disparity by family connections abroad

	People in Europe are paid more (%)
Family/relative work abroad	
Yes	72
No	60
Family/relative study abroad	
Yes	72
No	62

Table 5: Aspiration to work abroad and various reasons why

Are you planning to apply for a work visa to Europe?	(%)
Yes	15
No	69
Already applied	3
Reasons for applying for a work visa	
Work wages/better pay/guarantee of minimum wages	38
More opportunities for career growth	21
Developed infrastructure	7

Table 6: Indians perceive a more comfortable life in Europe

	People in Europe live comfortably than Indians (%)
Overall	51
Age groups	
18 to 25 years	60
26 to 35 years	53
36 to 45 years	49
46 to 55 years	49
56 years and above	39
Level of educational attainment	
Non-literate	25
Some schooling	42
Intermediate - undergraduate	46
College and above	57
Exposure to the Western world through different platforms	
No exposure	37
Low exposure	49
Moderate exposure	62
High exposure	62

Where does India stand on the Russia-Ukraine war?: The Russia-Ukraine war continues to significantly impact global geopolitics. When asked about the issue, 27% of respondents believed that Russia's actions were necessary, while a larger section, 34%, viewed them as unjustified

Table 7: Opinions on Russia's actions in Ukraine

Opinion	(%)
Russia's actions were necessary	27
Russia's actions were unjustified	34
Not aware about it	23
No opinion	16

Table 8: Opinion on Russia's actions in Ukraine by education

Education Level	Opinion (%)			
	Russia's actions were necessary	Russia's actions were unjustified	Not aware about It	No opinion
No/ some schooling	18	19	42	21
Intermediate- under graduate	27	24	27	23
College and above	29	41	16	14

Table 9: Opinion on Russia's actions in Ukraine by exposure to Western entertainment

Exposure Level	Opinion (%)			
	Russia's actions were necessary	Russia's actions were unjustified	Not aware about It	No opinion
No Exposure	16	21	37	27
Low	24	36	25	15
Moderate	32	44	14	11
High	39	37	13	12

Table 10: Opinion on Russia's actions in Ukraine by city type

City Type	Opinion (%)			
	Russia's actions were necessary	Russia's actions were unjustified	Not aware about it	No opinion
Small city	19	41	23	18
Medium city	26	31	27	16
Big city	31	32	20	17

The foreign dream: This study conducted by Sanjay Kumar, Professor and Co-director of Lokniti-CSDS, and Krishangi Sinha, a researcher at Lokniti-CSDS, looks into Indian aspirations to settle and work abroad

Table 11: Opinion of Indians regarding traveling abroad

Have you ever travelled/thought of travelling abroad or out of India	(%)
Yes	36
No	61

Table 12: Aspiration/experience of travelling abroad by age and education

Age	Respondents travelled/ thought of travelling abroad (%)
18 to 25 years	44
26 to 35 years	37
36 to 45 years	33
46 to 55 years	30
56 years and above	25
Level of Education	
Non-literate	10
Some schooling	17
Intermediate-under graduate	25
College and above	45

Table 13: Countries preferred by Indians for international travel

Countries Indian's prefer to travel	(%)
U.S.	30
U.K.	21
Canada	19
UAE	18
Germany	16
Singapore	16
Australia	14
France	13
Switzerland	12
Japan	9
Malaysia	9
Maldives	9
Italy	8
Thailand	8
New Zealand	5

Note: Some named China (3%), Mauritius (3%), Spain (3%) and South Africa (2%)

Table 14: Preference for countries by age group and economic class

Age Group	North American countries		European countries			West Asian country
	Canada	USA	France	Germany	UK	UAE
Young (18 to 25 years)	22	35	17	20	25	13
Elderly (56 years and above)	15	30	7	12	21	24
Economic Class						
Middle	17	27	12	17	18	17
Upper	24	33	18	21	26	15

Table 15: Preferred countries for travelling abroad and the various reasons why

Country	If given a chance, which country would you like to go for (%)				
	Tourism	Education	Employment	Business	Settling down
Switzerland	56	23	30	24	26
UK	56	38	42	32	33
France	55	31	36	30	28
Germany	49	34	37	28	26
Italy	45	21	26	21	20
Ireland	34	16	20	17	15
Norway	33	14	18	15	14
Sweden	33	16	20	16	14
Netherlands	32	15	19	16	13
Spain	28	18	22	18	15
Any other country	8	5	6	5	5

Table 16: Perceived social status of individuals exposed to Europe through study, work, or vacation abroad

Who typically has higher social status	Their social status is…		
	Higher than mine	Lower than mine	Equal to mine
Person working in Europe	46	9	31
Person studying in Europe	43	17	27
Person vacationing in Europe	41	12	31

Meet on research held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The second International Conference on Transdisciplinary Research in Life Sciences on the theme 'Planetary Health' was held at Kristu Jayanti College (Autonomous) recently. The event, organised by the Department of Life Sciences, was attended by over 200 participants from 33 institutions.

The event was hosted in collaboration with the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences Technology, University of Michigan - Flint, U.S., and Belmont University, U.S., and supported by the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology.

Chandrabhas Narayana, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, inaugurated the conference which was held on March 6 and 7.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAR. 13	
RISE 06:28	SET 18:30
RISE 17:53	SET 05:48
FRIDAY, MAR. 14	
RISE 06:28	SET 18:30
RISE 18:39	SET 06:23
SATURDAY, MAR. 15	
RISE 06:27	SET 18:30
RISE 19:24	SET 06:57

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	23
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	32	19

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night will be leasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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Govt. withdraws order on CID probe into Ranya gold smuggling case

Decision comes after officials clarified on how two probes cannot be undertaken simultaneously

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after issuing an order entrusting the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to probe the Ranya Rao gold smuggling case, the State government withdrew its order on Tuesday.

The decision to withdraw the order came after senior officials clarified to the higher-ups on how two inquires cannot be undertaken on the same matter simultaneously.

The State government had appointed senior IAS officer Gaurav Gupta to investigate the protocol violations by the actor as well as the possible role of her stepfather K. Ramachandra Rao, Director-General of Police, Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation, in the case.

In a separate order, the government had also directed the CID to probe the possible negligence and dereliction on the part of police personnel and submit a report.

Ranya Rao

Misused protocol

Ranya Rao had allegedly misused the protocol of her step father to bypass security checks at the airport while smuggling gold bars concealed in her body. The DRI officials verified her travel history and found that Ranya Rao had made several trips to Dubai and other countries and suspect that she could be part of smuggling racket.

The actor was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) after she was caught at the Kempegowda International Airport with 14.2 kg of gold bars worth ₹12.5 crore on her arrival from Dubai on March 3. Following DRI inputs, CBI registered a case to probe the gold smuggling racket with international links.

While DRI and CBI pitched in for a detailed probe, the government ordered two probes on the same case to investigate the possible dereliction of police personnel involved and the role of Mr. Ramachandra Rao in the case.

Bail hearing continues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The bail hearing at the Special Court of Economic Offences continued as advocates representing DRI filed an objection to the bail plea on Tuesday, which was argued against by the counsel representing Ranya Rao on technical grounds.

Objecting to the bail, the DRI said that the accused had not declared the gold brought by her or provided supporting documents to justify the possession of the gold.

The DRI also said that the way the accused carried the gold, concealing it and misusing the protocol, and considering her travel history, it needs a detailed probe, and granting bail at this juncture would hamper the investigation.

However, countering the arguments, the defence stated that as per Section 102 of the Customs Act, clear guidelines exist regarding who must be present during a search.

'Procedural lapses'

While DRI insists that proper procedures were followed, Ranya's advocate continued to challenge the investigation process. DRI officials did not adhere to the provisions of the Customs Act during the arrest. Ranya Rao was detained at the airport's Green Channel, and several procedural lapses were committed by the officials during the arrest, the advocate said.

"Due to these lapses, bail must be granted. We are not debating whether Ranya is guilty or not but procedural violations by investigators warrant bail," argued senior advocate Kiran Javali, presenting Ranya Rao. DRI officials issued an arrest memo at the time of arrest, stating the reasons for detention.

19 jammers at central prison likely to be sent to Bhopal for recalibration

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A survey revealed that the disruptions to 4G and 5G networks were caused by the 19 jammers that were installed in the central prison at Parappana Agrahara to enhance disruption alongside the Tower-Harmonics Call Blocking System. FILE PHOTO

In an effort to resolve network disruptions in the vicinity of the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara in Bengaluru, the Prison and Correctional Services Department has directed Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) to recalibrate 19 jammers installed in the prison.

According to sources, the jammers are likely to be sent to Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh for the necessary frequency modifications.

Survey findings

A two-day survey conducted by TCIL had found weak cellphone and wi-fi signals within a 2.5 km radius of the prison. The survey also revealed that the disruptions to 4G and 5G networks were caused by the 19 jammers, which were installed to enhance disruption alongside the Tower-Harmonics Call Blocking System (T-HCBS).

The survey was ordered by the Prison Department at the insistence of the Chief Minister's Office. The decision to recalibrate the jammers to reduce their frequency was taken during a meeting on March 11.

A source privy to the meeting said, "The Prison Department directed TCIL to send the jammers to Bhopal, where its factory is located. Recalibration must be done there to reduce the frequency. Since the modification cannot be carried out locally, sending them to Bhopal is a technical requirement. Another meeting will be held this week to discuss the issue further. Removing all jammers at once may not be feasible, as it would jeopardise prison security."

The meeting, called by the Prison Department, was attended by officials from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Last year, residents began facing network disruptions after the Prison Department installed T-HCBS in January last year. Following protests, Airtel installed a mini tower in August to boost the network, briefly improving accessibility for two months. However, the problem resurfaced with the installation of 19 jammers.

Plight of residents

A resident of Parappana Agrahara told *The Hindu*, "Nearly 20 families have vacated their homes due to network issues. Since Wi-Fi signals are also affected in some areas, it has become nearly impossible to live here. Although 'To-Let' boards have been put up, no one is inquiring about renting houses due to the network problem."

Court restrains media from publishing defamatory statements against actor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A city civil court in Bengaluru on Wednesday restrained, by way of temporary ex-party injunction, several media platforms, including print, electronic, digital, television, and social media, from publishing or telecasting any defamatory statements/allegations against Kannada actor Harshavardini Ranya Rao, who is under arrest in a gold smuggling case.

The 40th Additional City Civil and Sessions judge passed the interim order on a suit filed by Rohini H.P., mother of Ms. Ranya.

It was contended on behalf of Ms. Rohini that under the guise of fair journalism, media platforms have used misleading headlines and exaggerated narratives to create a false perception, which harms the personal integrity of the daughter of the plaintiff.

Instead of adhering to journalistic ethics, they have misused their platforms and are engaged in an unethical media trial, it was argued.

ಸಮಸ್ತ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ
सभी राज्य सरकार के विभागों और अधिकारियों से अपील
APPEAL TO ALL STATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS & OFFICIALS
ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಿಂದ ಸಹಕಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ವಿನಂತಿ
सरकारी विभागों से सहयोग का अनुरोध
Request for Cooperation from Government Departments

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಮಾನಕ ಬ್ಯೂರೋ (BIS), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಶಾಖಾ ಕಚೇರಿ ವಿಶ್ವ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆಯ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಜಾಗೃತಿಯನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಭಾಗವಾಗಿ, ಮನಕ ಮಿತ್ರ (BIS ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಕರು) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ, ISI ಗುರುತು ಪಡೆದ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು, ಹಾಲ್ಮಾರ್ಕಿಂಗ್, BIS CARE ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಅಪ್ಲಿಕೇಶನ್ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಹತ್ವದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.
ಈ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ 2025ರ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 10ರಿಂದ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 20ರವರೆಗೆ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಕಾರ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ವಿನಂತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳನ್ನು ಉತ್ತೇಜಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಗೃತಿಗೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸಹಾಯವು ಮಹತ್ತರ ಕೊಡುಗೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮನ್ವಯಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ದಯವಿಟ್ಟು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ.

भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो (बीआईएस), बेंगलुरु शाखा कार्यालय विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर उपभोक्ता जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए एक गुणवत्ता कनेक्ट कार्यक्रम आयोजित कर रहा है। इस पहल के हिस्से के रूप में, मानक मित्र (बीआईएस स्वयंसेवक) सरकारी विभागों का दौरा करेंगे और आईएसआई चिह्नित उत्पादों, हॉलमार्किंग, बीआईएस केयर मोबाइल एप्लिकेशन पर महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी का प्रसार करेंगे।
10 मार्च से 20 मार्च 2025 तक। इस संबंध में, सभी सरकारी विभागों से अनुरोध है कि वे इस जागरूकता अभियान को सुविधाजनक बनाने में अपना समर्थन और सहयोग प्रदान करें। गुणवत्ता मानकों को बढ़ावा देने में आपकी सहायता उपभोक्ता सुरक्षा और जागरूकता में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देगी।

आगे के समन्वय के लिए, कृपया संपर्क करें

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru Branch Office is organizing a Quality Connect Program to enhance consumer awareness on the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day. As part of this initiative, Manak Mitra (BIS Volunteers) will visit government departments to disseminate vital information on: ISI Marked Products, Hallmarking, BIS CARE Mobile Application.

Starting from 10th March to 20th March 2025. In this regard, all government departments are kindly requested to extend their support and cooperation in facilitating this awareness campaign. Your assistance in promoting quality standards will contribute significantly to consumer safety and awareness.

For further coordination, please contact
Bureau of Indian Standards
Bengaluru Branch Office.
Opp. Jalahalli Metro, Peenya Industrial Area 1st Stage,
Tumkur Rd, Vivekananda Nagar,
Peenya, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560058.
E-mail : bnbo@bis.gov.in | Website : ww.bis.gov.in
मानकः पथप्रदर्शकः
Bureau of Indian Standards

Aeronautical Development Agency
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017

Advt Reference No. : ADA:ADV-130:2025 — 12-03-2025

RECRUITMENT OF PROJECT SCIENTISTS ON PROGRAMME BASED LIMITED TENURE CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

ADA is a Society and an Autonomous Organization under the Department of Defence Research & Development (R&D), Ministry of Defence (MOD), Government of India, entrusted with the design & development of both the Air Force and Naval versions of Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas), LCA Mark-II. ADA is also entrusted with the design and development of Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and other advanced technology developmental projects of Government of India.

2. ADA is in need of **'Project Scientists'** on Project/Programme based limited tenure contract appointment in the level of **Project Scientist 'B' / Project Scientist 'C'.** The details on vacancy, age, remuneration etc. is mentioned below:

Post	Reservation/ Total Vacancy		Age Limit	Minimum Experience	Gross Salary per month
	Category	Vacancy			
Project Scientist 'B'	SC	12	35	Experience upto 3 years in relevant field is **desirable**	₹90,789/-
	ST	05			
	OBC	25			
	EWS	09			
	UR	55			
	Total	**105**			

Post	Total Vacancy	Age Limit	Minimum Experience	Gross Salary per month
Project Scientist 'C'	32	40	A minimum of 3 years experience in relevant field is **essential**	₹1,08,073/-

Note: Reservation for candidates of Divyang category will be as per GoI rules. Maximum age including all age relaxations shall **not exceed 56 years** as on the closing date of the advertisement.

3. Essential Qualification (for both the posts): At least a First Class Bachelor's Degree in Engineering / Technology or equivalent in any of the Engineering disciplines viz. Aeronautics / Computer Science / Electronics & Communication / Electrical & Instrumentation / Metallurgy / Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University.

4. For complete details of the advertisement and registration / submission of applications online, interested candidates may visit ADA website: **https://www.ada.gov.in** Registration & submission of applications on ADA website will be accepted from **17th March 2025** onwards till **4.00 PM** on **21st April 2025.**

5. Genuine queries (if any) regarding the advertisement should be sent by e-mail (only) to **admin-hr.ada@gov.in**

Director (Admin & HR), ADA

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Govt. not against conducting KAS prelims for third time: CM

KPSC's notification on conduct of main exam has been challenged before KAT, which is expected to hear the matter today

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday informed the Karnataka Legislative Assembly that the State government would allow re-examination of the KAS preliminary conducted by the Karnataka Public Services Commission (KPSC) if the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT) pronounces a verdict in favour of it.

Candidates who had appeared for the KPSC preliminary examination have challenged the notification issued by the KPSC for conducting the main examination before the KAT and the tribunal has directed the commission to keep its notification in abeyance. The KAT has not issued any stay order and it is expected to hear the matter on Thursday, he said. The KPSC had earlier issued a notification for recruitment to fill 384 gazette probationary posts.

The BJP and JD(S) demanded conducting the preliminary examination for the third time, following malpractices and mistakes in the Kannada translation of the question paper, to ensure justice to Kannada-medium and rural students.

In his reply to the issue raised by BJP and JD(S) members on wrongly translated questions for Kannada-medium candidates in the KAS preliminary exams twice, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "I will not come in the way of re-conducting of the preliminary examination if the KAT issues an order in favour of the re-examination. Even if the KAT does not issue an order for re-examination, I will hold discussions with the KPSC chairman and members and leaders of all political parties for a decision on re-examination."

Clarifying stand: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

> Even if the KAT does not issue an order for re-examination, I will hold discussions with the KPSC chairman and members and leaders of all political parties for a decision on re-examination.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

The Chief Minister agreed with Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, who alleged that the KPSC was a "den of corruption", and said the government has appointed members of the statutory body (KPSC), but it has no powers to remove them. The government has limited powers with regard to the functioning of the KPSC. In the past too, several scams occurred in the body, he said.

As part of measures to bring in reforms, he proposed to set up a search committee to identify honest members for the KPSC.

As per the expert committee of the KPSC, there were 10 and six mistakes, respectively, in translation in the first and second preliminary test papers. Quoting the Supreme Court ruling of 2018, the Chief Minister said the government had no authority to dispute the expert panel's report.

Countering the expert panel's report, Mr. Ashok said there were 59 and 79 translation mistakes in the first and second test papers, respectively.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said he was not afraid of taking action against any officials who had indulged in malpractice. If proved, he said, criminal cases would be booked against those who translated questions from English to Kannada and they would be blacklisted. He has suggested to the KPSC to translate questions from Kannada to English and not vice versa. Because of poor hold over the Kannada language, the translators committed mistakes, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

On the issue of the KPSC having excess members, he said efforts would be made to reduce the number from the present 16. A big State with 25 crore population like Uttar Pradesh has only eight members to the UPPSC.

Noting that his government had implemented the Hota committee recommendations for ensuring transparency in the recruitment process, he said the UPSC model would be followed in the future in the KPSC recruitment.

On irregularities in examinations for appointment of 25 Assistant Executive Engineers in the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department of the RDPR, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the recruitment by the KPSC had been challenged in the High Court and the matter was *sub judice*.

The KPSC's expert committee itself admitted malpractices in the recruitment process, RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge said.

Rampant corruption

Earlier, Mr. Ashok, Arvind Bellad, C.N. Ashwath Narayana, Siddu Savadi, and B.Y. Vijayendra (all BJP), and Suresh Babu and other JD(S) members alleged that rampant corruption in the KPSC had resulted in injustice to the Kannada-medium candidates and it was an insult to the Kannada language.

They demanded that fresh exams be conducted through a new notification, which should provide for accommodating over-aged candidates by relaxing the age limit.

A sum of ₹15 crore was spent on conducting each of the preliminary exams, and the KPSC had already wasted ₹30 crore for the two exams, they alleged.

Mr. Ashok alleged that the KPSC authorities were playing with the future of candidates as mistakes had crept into their question papers twice.

Members cutting across party lines stressed the need for reforms to end malpractices in KAS examinations and corruption in the recruitment process.

Delimitation: CM extends support to Stalin's effort

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka has extended support to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's effort to raise the issue of delimitation exercise that is expected to put southern States in a disadvantageous position even as it has not spelt out its decision on attending the March 22 meeting convened by Mr. Stalin.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah extended his support to Mr. Stalin's effort during his meeting with Tamil Nadu Forest Minister K. Ponmudy and Rajya Sabha member M.M. Abdulla, who called on him here on Wednesday. The Tamil Nadu delegation sought Mr. Siddaramaiah's support in protests on the issue. Before the meeting with the delegation, Mr. Stalin spoke to Mr. Siddaramaiah on the phone and discussed the same.

A note from the Chief Minister's Office here said that Mr. Siddaramaiah extended support to the Southern states' opposition to the delimitation exercise. "Any effort by the Centre that hurts the interest of Karnataka or undermine the philosophy of federalism enshrined in the constitution will be condemned. On these issues, we will extend our support," the CM said in a statement.

Expressing solidarity: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met with Tamil Nadu Forest Minister K. Ponmudy and Rajya Sabha member M.M. Abdulla on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Invites for JAC

In a letter to Mr. Siddaramaiah, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister sought his formal consent to join the Joint Action Committee (JAC) comprising Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana and Karnataka in the South, West Bengal and Odisha in the East and Punjab in North. He also sought the nomination of one senior representative from the Congress, who can serve on the JAC and help coordinate a unified strategy. He has sought a joint effort to examine the constitutional, legal and political dimensions to the challenge and develop alternatives to preserve the current representations in terms of percentage.

"This moment demands leadership and collaboration, rising above political differences and standing up for collective good. What is at stake is not any abstract principle-it is our states' ability to secure rightful resources for development, to influence crucial policies on education and healthcare and to ensure economic priorities receive due attention in national agenda." Post 2026, the situation may become drastically skewed if the delimitation exercise is conducted as per the next census population and those states which controlled population and achieved superior governance indicators will face an unjust punishment- reduced representation in the very forum where national policies are determined, Mr. Stalin warned in the letter.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar told reporters here that he would discuss with the party high command whether to attend the meeting convened on March 22 to oppose delimitation or not. "Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has taken the lead in mobilising protest against the delimitation exercise. Mr. Stalin's representatives have extended the invitation. We are an alliance partner with the ruling party in Tamil Nadu and we agree with their stance on the delimitation exercise. Since we are a national party, we need to discuss this with our party high command. We will decide on the next step after seeking their advice and the same has been communicated to the Tamil Nadu delegation. It is time we work together to uphold our self -respect."

SNIPPETS

KPSC Bill tabled

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday tabled the Karnataka Public Service Commission (Conduct of Business and Additional Functions) (Amendment) Bill, 2025, for bringing reforms in the Karnataka Public Services Commission (KPSC). It seeks to remove the provision relating to taking decisions through "circulation among members", in order to avoid delay in taking decisions by the commission.

The Bill proposes to amend the KPSC (Conduct of Business and Additional Functions) Act 1959, for prescribing 50% quorum for serving members, including chairman, for meeting of the commission. It seeks to make provision to interview the candidates for appointment by any one member authorised by the commission.

Mr. Siddaramaiah tabled the Karnataka Tax on Profession, Trades, Calling and Employments (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to give effect to the proposal made in the State Budget for 2025-26 to increase the tax by ₹250 a year on salary or wage earners whose salary or wage or both for a month is ₹25,000 and above.

Council adopts three Bills

Amid a walkout by the Opposition members, the Karnataka Legislative Council on Wednesday adopted The Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, that seeks to establish the Greater Bengaluru Authority for coordinating and supervising the development of the Greater Bengaluru area.

Two other Bills – Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill and The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Bill, 2025 – were also passed.

'E-Jamabandi software will be ready within a year'

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda informed the Legislative Council on Wednesday that the e-Jamabandi software would be ready within a year to speed up the *Jamabandi* process, a method of matching and regularising village-level and taluk-level land records.

Replying to JD(S) member T.N. Javarayi Gowda, he said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced this in the recently presented Budget. "This will reduce the work pressure on village accountants and speed up the *Jamabandi* process," he said.

Shakti scheme: Govt. owes ₹2,182 cr. to RTCs, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To facilitate the Karnataka government's ambitious Shakti scheme, which offers free bus travel to women domiciled in the State, the government has so far reimbursed ₹7,796 crore to the four State road transport corporations. The government still owes ₹2,182 crore to the corporations, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy informed the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Responding to BJP member Keshava Prasad, the Minister said out of the total ₹9,978 allocation for the scheme during 2024-2025, the State had released only ₹7,796 crore to the four corporations – Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation, North-Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation, and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation – based on the number of zero-fare tickets issued to women.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy speaking in the Legislative Council.

The Shakti scheme, introduced on June 11, 2023, is one of the five flagship guarantee schemes rolled out by the Congress government after assuming office. This initiative aims to empower women by enhancing their mobility.

Overall deficit

Pointing out that the four RTCs are facing an overall deficit of ₹5,200 crore since 2019, the Minister attributed the losses to the rise in oil prices, revision of employees' salary, and hike in the cost of spare parts of vehicles.

"It is not just Karnataka RTCs that are facing losses, but all RTCs across India are reeling under losses. However, the Karnataka government has planned multiple programmes and initiatives to tide over these losses and revive these RTCs financially. These losses are one of the reasons for revising the bus fares by 15% recently," he explained.

The Minister also revealed that out of the existing bus fleet with all the RTCs, only 30% of the buses are operated in profit mode. "About 40% buses are operated under losses and another 30% are operated in no-loss-no-profit mode. We need about ₹10 crore a day to maintain our fleet of buses, including diesel, wages of employees, breakdown, maintenance, and other related expenses. All RTCs operate 1.96 lakh trips on a daily basis," he said.

Shortage of buses

On complaints of disruption in the frequency of services or availability of buses, the Minister said the shortage of buses was largely due to the non-purchase of new buses by the previous governments.

Oppn. withdraws dharna over guarantee committees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured protesting members that he would call a meeting of legislators after the Budget session to look into their problems, the BJP and Janata Dal (S) withdrew their dharna in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday on the issue of releasing honorarium from the State exchequer for Congress workers involved in the implementation of the five guarantee schemes.

On Tuesday, the Opposition members had staged a dharna when the State government made a statement that the salaries and sitting fee of Congress functionaries on the panels set up to oversee the guarantee schemes was being paid by the government.

The issue had triggered an uproar, with the Opposition accusing the Congress of using taxpayers money to reward its functionaries.

The Chief Minister told protesting members that he would call a meeting soon after the session to look into their problems. He assured members that no action would be taken to curtail their rights and privileges.

Placing demands: BJP and JD(S) legislators presenting a memoradum to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Opposition demanded scrapping of panels set up by the Congress for ensuring smooth execution of the guarantee schemes.

Petition to Governor

Before the commencement of the session on Wednesday, BJP and JD(S) members staged a dharna in front of the Kengal Hanumanthaiya statue on the premises of Vidhana Soudha against appointing Congress functionaries to the committees on implementation of the guarantee schemes.

They also petitioned Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, appealing to him to dissolve the guarantee implementation committees, while terming them as illegal.

They alleged that a total of ₹30 crore a year was being spent on providing honorarium to Congress functionaries who were appointed to these committees.

'Law allows cancellation of wills if children don't take care of parents'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

If parents and senior citizens are not taken care of, the Central government's Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, provides for cancellation of the wills and donations made by them to their children or relatives, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda informed the Legislative Council. Responding to Congress member Balkees Banu on Wednesday, the Minister said, "Recently, many cases of children not taking care of their parents have come to light. If the children or relatives do not take care of them, senior citizens have the right to cancel the will or testamentary disposition made in their name."

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda speaking in the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

2007 law

"The Central government implemented the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act in 2007. However, many people are not aware of this. I am mentioning this Act in the Council with the aim of effectively reaching everyone with this information. According to this Act, children or relatives must take care of senior citizens. They must pay for their monthly expenses, including medicine. If the money is not paid or they neglect to take care of them, senior citizens can file a complaint with the authorities concerned under the Act," he said.

"If the complaint of senior citizens is proven and if the children/relatives do not take care of their parents after receiving property from them, then as per Section 23, the law allows the parents to cancel the will or testamentary disposition written in the name of their children or relatives and restore it in the name of the parents. This responsibility has been given to the sub-divisional officers. There are already thousands of cases before the sub-divisional officers. Monthly meetings are being held with the sub-divisional officers regarding this issue. Also, the applicants have been given the opportunity to appeal to the Deputy Commissioner," he explained.

'Frogs carry the weight of our environment on their tiny shoulders'

Resplendent Shrub Frog. SUHAS PREMKUMAR

Filmmaker, photographer and naturalist Suhas Premkumar's film *Little Planet: A Tale of Frogs* explores the fascinating life of frogs in India

Star Eyed Tree Frog. SUHAS PREMKUMAR

Nyctibatrachus Kumbara. SUHAS PREMKUMAR

Coorg Yellow Bush. SUHAS PREMKUMAR

Bull Frog. ARVIND AITHAL

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Suhas Premkumar regularly encountered frogs while growing up in the town of Shikaripur in Karnataka's Shimoga district. "Frogs coming into our kitchen was a day-to-day story," says the Bengaluru-based filmmaker, photographer and naturalist whose film *Little Planet: A Tale of Frogs* premiered in the city on March 2 at the Dr. Ramdas M. Pai Convention Centre at MAHE, Yelahanka.

However, his deep fascination for the animal came much later, catalysed by his obsession with another animal: the snake. "I used to take photos of snakes, and since snakes come out searching for frogs, we started observing the latter too," he says. "That is how they slowly began getting into my mind and heart."

By 2015, he realised that he wanted to do more to raise awareness about these small animals that are "so vulnerable" and play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance but are still not thought about or spoken about enough, believes Suhas. That proved to be the starting point for the conception of *Little Planet: A Tale of Frogs*, a film born out of a single but crucial question: what would it take to highlight the importance of frogs, the unsung heroes of our ecosystem? "The best way to reach people is by telling stories. That was how this journey began," he says of the film, which took nearly a decade to make.

The snake rescuer

Suhas Premkumar

Even though snakes were the portal through which Suhas entered the world of wildlife, he grew up terrified of them. "If somebody said 'snake', I would run away," he says. However, an encounter with a cobra during his 10th grade changed all that. "Our dog, Tiger, was looking down and barking at something," he recalls. That something turned out to be a cobra, which appeared to be having a face-off with the dog. "It went on for almost an hour; the snake wouldn't let the dog go, the dog wouldn't let the snake go," says Suhas, who then went to the local santhe in Shikaripur to bring home a snake charmer.

The charmer, he recalls, picked up the snake and tore it apart, immediately killing it. "It was very disturbing and gruesome," he remembers, adding that the incident gave him nightmares long after. Then, while visiting his grandmother in Mysuru a month later, he met M.S. Balasubramania, popularly known as Snake Shyam, a snake rescuer in the city. "I saw him rescuing a small cobra, picking it up and putting it in a bag. So, I asked him why he was doing this," he says. Snake Shyam told him that the world was not just for humans to live in and that snakes were among the most misunderstood creatures, who didn't bite to kill humans deliberately but to defend themselves.

After this revelation, "whenever I went to Mysuru, I would meet Snake Shyam, understand the snake and go with him for rescues. That is how I developed a passion for wildlife, especially snakes," says Suhas, who, over time, began rescuing snakes himself, his very first rescue being an olive keelback, a rare and harmless watersnake, found primarily in South India. "I took one-and-a-half to two years just to research snakes, understanding which ones were venomous and non-venomous...how to handle a snake...what went into rescuing a snake," he says.

Photography and more

In 2006, Suhas moved to Bengaluru to join Infosys BPO in Electronic City. "The campus has a lot of snakes: keelbacks, rat snakes, cobras. Since people knew that I rescued snakes, the facility manager often called me to do that," he says. And even after he stopped rescuing snakes in 2011 or 2012, his fascination for the reptiles refused to die. "I used to go in search of them in the jungle, wanting to introduce myself to the species found in the Western Ghats, which are very different from what you see in Bengaluru," he says. "I would search for snakes in their natural habitat, just to see what they were doing, and then take photographs of them," adds Suhas, who has been wielding a camera for over 25 years.

In 2011, after winning an award for one of his photographs from *National Geographic*, he plunged entirely into the world of wildlife, becoming a certified naturalist and eco-volunteer. During this time, he also worked with the Karnataka forest department to create wildlife documentaries and conducted nature education camps and workshops, mostly in and around the Sharavathi area. In 2014, he began working on his first documentary, *Namaami Aranyaka,* which captures the journey of a forester in Honnavara before moving on to others, including *Namma Shola*, which focuses on the unique shola forests of Kuduremukha and *Dipterocarpus bourdillonii*, a film documenting the efforts of the Karnataka Forest Department to save a critically endangered tree species.

Uperodon Species. ARVIND AITHAL

The tagline for the well-known coffee chain Café Coffee Day is "A lot can happen over coffee". It indeed did for Suhas – the idea for *Little Planet: A Tale of Frogs* evolved over a conversation at one of its branches. "I had a lot of friends who used to come to my camps, so I called for a meeting and told them my idea: to do a film about snakes and frogs," he says. However, he soon realised that frogs needed more attention because "there are very few people working on frogs," says Suhas, who credits Bengaluru-based ecologist Gururaja K.V., who has been researching frogs for over twenty-five years, for expanding his interest and knowledge of these tiny animals.

Frogs, according to him, are highly threatened and particularly vulnerable to climate change, pollution, being run over by vehicles on roads, habitat loss and degradation and even being hunted for food. Unfortunately, people don't consider them charismatic animals, often curling up their noses in disgust when encountering frogs. "The whole world is behind tigers, but who talks about frogs?" he asks. "Frogs have only been fillers in most documentaries, and this was something I wanted to change."

Entering a little planet

Monsoons in the Western Ghats or Sahyadris, like anywhere else in the country, are a life-affirming affair, deeply intertwined with the survival of both humans and non-humans. *Little Planet*, which was filmed in this mountain range, a globally recognised biodiversity hotspot and home to many endemic species, begins by highlighting the importance of this season. Then, we are introduced to the film's main protagonist, Paddy, a male Indian bullfrog (Hoplobatrachus tigerinus) who comes out to mate during the monsoon showers.

The film goes on to document this journey, chronicling how Paddy changes colour from olive to vibrant yellow, sings loudly and relentlessly through the season and wrestles with other males in paddy fields to establish his dominance – all in an attempt to woo a female of his species. Male bullfrogs, like males of many other animal species, are not always successful.

Indian Bullfrog. ARVIND AITHAL

Malabar Gliding Frog. SUHAS PREMKUMAR

But Paddy's hard work pays off. He finally gets the attention of a female bullfrog, with whom he engages in a mating ritual called amplexus, a behaviour exhibited by some animals that fertilise externally. "The Indian Bullfrog is very common in India and other Southeast Asian countries, so we had not thought that this had to be the hero," says Suhas.

However, it is also the biggest frog in India, one that is often smuggled, primarily to Goa, where "jumping chicken", as it is famously referred to, is in high demand as a culinary delicacy. "I wanted to create awareness about them by showing their activities. When it comes to bullfrogs, the changing colour is the biggest spectacle, and it happens only two or three days a year," he says of the film that started with being crowd- and self-funded; co-producer Raj Gore chipped in towards the end.

Weight of environment

In addition to the bullfrogs, the film highlights the lives of multiple other fascinating characters: a supple bright-green Malabar gliding frog that uses the webbing between its toes to float away from predators, a male night frog looking after the eggs of the female he sired with and a yellow bush frog whose eggs hatch directly into froglets, without going through a tadpole stage. "This film is my love letter to the Western Ghats and a plea to every viewer to stand up for the smallest voices in nature," says Suhas, who is deeply grateful to several people, including his wife, Jhansi, Raj Gore, his field and post-production team members, IFS officer Vasanth Reddy K.V. and Dr Gururaja K.V. for having supported him on the journey.

Little Planet, which was submitted to multiple national and international film festivals, has won numerous awards so far, a trend he hopes will continue. Suhas also wants to travel from one end of the massive Western Ghats to the other to create awareness about these unsung heroes by screening the film and talking about frogs at various places, a project he calls Rally of Frogs, and is actively looking for financial support for the same.

"We are also planning to get the narration of the film translated into Kannada, Hindi, Malayalam and Tamil to connect to the audience of the respective languages," he says, pointing out that the whole intention of the film, after all, was to get frogs their deserved ecological and conservation status. "The Western Ghats has been a part of me since childhood, but it was only when I began filming that I truly understood the fragility of its ecosystem," he says. "Frogs, so small and unassuming, carry the weight of our environment on their tiny shoulders."

Bootcamp brings together 26 start-ups from across the country

NSRCEL camp serves as platform for founders to exchange insights, receive mentorship from industrial experts in sustainable business practices

Sutapa Dey
BENGALURU

NSRCEL, the incubation cell of Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), hosted a three-day circular economy bootcamp, aiming to foster sustainability-driven business solutions and scaling ventures to global markets. The camp that brought together 26 start-ups from across the country was organised in collaboration with Pernod Ricard India Foundation (PRIF) and Yunus Social Business Fund.

The bootcamp featured multiple sessions covering aspects of entrepreneurship, including strategies for expanding business to global markets, leveraging carbon markets, operational efficiencies and challenges for start-ups. It also served as a platform for founders to exchange insights and receive mentorship from industrial experts in sustainable business practices.

The three-day bootcamp concluded with participating start-ups being awarded certificates. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Talking to *The Hindu*, Nachiket Kulkarni, Assistant Vice President of Impact Orbit, a vertical under NSRCEL, noted that the objective of the camp was to introduce ventures to service providers, fostering inter-cohort partnerships to facilitate customer-supplier relationship.

Citing ventures such as Unbubble, C Gem and Go Fig, he said, "These ventures address issues like packaging replacement, carbon market education and food waste reduction, our motive is to open a door for unique and impactful solutions."

Of climate change

In one of the sessions, Gagan Reddy, Chief Technology Officer of ProClime, discussed the importance of making climate change profitable, emphasizing on the need for companies to engage with the monetary angle of climate change to drive environmental benefits.

"2030 is going to be an important year. Most of the companies promised a net zero emission target by 2050. But it's too far away. For most NDCs that either countries or companies have submitted as a voluntary compliance, they depend on a magic bullet," he said.

Srijesh Gupta, founder of C GEM, a non-profit organization from Ahmedabad, noted that the aim of the company is to support small farmers and communities in the agroforestry space by providing better control over carbon projects. He also highlighted the exploitation of farmers and NGOs by developers.

"There is difficulty in balancing profitability with impact, as startups often struggle to achieve significant impact while sustaining themselves financially," he pointed out.

Rounak Mistry, founder of Greenovate Solutions which focuses on developing carbon capture technology aimed at medium and small-scale SMEs and manufacturing industries, said that the main objective behind attending the bootcamp was to create a circular model for carbon capture.

Akash Singh, founder of Unbubble, shared his journey of usingan unsustainable packaging business in a sustainable gifting business in his former company. Unbubble is a plant-based, sustainable protective packaging that aims to replace thermocol and plastic bubble wraps.

The company currently has two products - Packaging Peanut, a packaging edible for animals, and Foam Packaging which turns into compost after use.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 13, 1975

Need to Change Education System Stressed

Bangalore, March 12: The Education Minister, Mr. M. Mallikarjuna Swamy, yesterday appealed to the people to ponder over the problems of education with a view to deciding on the type of education necessary now.

Delivering the valedictory address of the Students Association of the Peoples Education Society College, he said the present-day education was not job oriented. There was explosive expansion of education but there was tremendous wastage. "We are adding to the unemployed reserve army," he said. Nearly, 70 colleges had a student strength ranging between 12 and 50. These colleges and 90 high schools could be immediately closed.

He agreed that the teachers should be paid properly. While the plan outlay this year was Rs. 45 crores, the Government would need Rs. six crores towards equipment of libraries, laboratories etc of junior colleges. The Minister referred to the relaxation in the grant-in-aid rules to aided colleges in regard to meeting the deficit and said this would be given retrospective effect from April 1, 1974

GIG GUIDE

Women's History Month

March 15 and 16, 7 pm onwards
Indian Music Experience, JP Nagar
Entry: RSVP via linktr.ee/IndianMusicExperience

The second week of the ongoing Women's History Month Festival at Indian Music Experience museum's performance theatre brings in a diverse lineup over the weekend. On March 15, Mumbai hip-hop group Wild Wild Women will perform, fresh off their international debut shows in Germany. On March 16, the inimitable jazz vocalist Radha Thomas is expected to perform everything from standards to odes to the city and vocalese.

A press release for the event states, "Despite their profound impact, women's contributions to Indian music often remain underrecognised. As India's first interactive music museum, IME is committed to foregrounding these lesser-known narratives of women in music history. The Women's History Month festival aims to illuminate their stories, celebrate their achievements, and acknowledge their enduring influence."

Mixed bag of music

This weekend will see a little bit of everything for every kind of music lover in the city

Anurag Tagat

Bickram Ghosh

March 14, 7 pm onwards
Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram
Entry: ₹999 onwards, via BookMyShow

Tabla exponent, classical and fusion artiste Bickram Ghosh is curating, producing and directing a new set titled, Transformation, alongside artistes such as percussionist BC Manjunath, violinist Nandini Shankar, vocalist Anjana Padmanabhan, producer Mahesh Raghvan, drummer Pranav Dath and keyboardist Anay Gadgil.

The event description adds, "Transformation signifies Bickram's artistic evolution, embracing a more electronic soundscape. This act also highlights the exciting trend of Indian instruments finding their electric counterparts – the electric sitar, sarod, violin, veena and many more. This act serves as a testament to the evolving landscape of Indian classical music, showcasing its ability to seamlessly blend tradition with contemporary influences."

Ghosh added on social media that the concert is also driven by a charitable action. "This event will support a philanthropic cause by presenting a set of tablas to underprivileged children and arranging for music education for these children, amongst others," he said on Instagram.

LILA by Shake Stew

March 14 and 15, 9.30 pm onwards
Windmills, Whitefield
Entry: ₹750 (standing), ₹2,000 (seating) via windmills-india.com

Described as "one of Europe's most exciting contemporary jazz ensembles, Austrian septet Shake Stew present a special showcase set of their 2023 album, *Lila,* at Windmills in Whitefield this week. A description for the event states that the band is "known for their high-energy blend of groove jazz and Afrobeats".

Since their debut at the Saalfelden Jazz Festival in 2016, Shake Stew have been repping modern jazz from Austria. The band's lineup itself is an indication of their experimentation. Shake Stew has two drummers – Nikolaus Dolp and Christian Eberle, two bassists (bandleader Lukas Kranzelbinder and Oliver Potratz) and a horn section comprising three members – Yvonne Moriel on alto saxophone, Mario Rom on trumpet and Johannes Schleiermacher on tenor saxophone and flute. "The band creates an unmistakable sonic identity, fusing kraut-jazz, hypnotic rhythms, and deep grooves," the description adds.

Zero1 Fest

March 14, 10 am onwards
Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal
Entry: Zero1byzerodha.com/fest

The festival season goes from strength to strength this week with a multi-genre lineup of artistes performing to cap off the Zero1 Fest by Zerodha. While the conference side of the event with panel discussions and keynote speakers are a big draw in themselves, there's plenty of music to add a different energy to the festival. The likes of hip-hop artiste Raftaar, pop singer-songwriter Lisa Mishra, Arunachal Pradesh's singer-songwriter Taba Chake, Mumbai funk and nu-disco duo Madboy/Mink and singer-songwriter Aanchal Bordoloi will perform.

The comedy lineup as part of the Zero1 Fest will include the like of Abhishek Upmanyu, Kenny Sebastian and Urooj Ashfaq.

Raman Negi

March 15, 8.30 pm onwards
Bira 91 Taproom, Koramangala
Entry:₹799, via Skillboxes.com, plus cover charge at the door

On the back of playing big stages such as Bandland in Bengaluru last year and most recently, Lollapalooza India in Mumbai last week, New Delhi rock artiste Raman Negi brings his latest album *Chaltey Purzay* to the city. After these festivals, Negi is playing in a club setting this time around as part of his album launch tour, which kicks off in Bengaluru.

He said in a post on social media, "First gig of the *Chaltey Purzay* tour is getting closer! And the excitement is mixed with heebie-jeebies." The setlist includes songs off the new album as well as Negi's first album, *Shakhsiyat*, although he says the renditions will be "like you have never heard before." He added in another post about performing in the city, "Last time we played was amazing and I'm stoked to bring the full album to you."

Shilpa Anandraj

Of time and timelessness

A force to reckon with A still from the dance, Anuradha J Tadakamalla (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mahakali. The name evokes either extreme devotion or fear. Kali is known to represent the ultimate reality, which goes beyond the realm of time and darkness. She is described as the embodiment of feminine power, strength and resilience. And, these are the very attributes of the deity, that captivated dancer-professor Dr Anuradha J Tadakamalla, to conceptualise and choreograph the dance *Mahakali*.

Anuradha and the Team of Art India Foundation, Hyderabad, will perform *Mahakali* in Bengaluru this weekend, as part of the ninth edition of *Nayika - Celebrating Womanhood 2025*, presented by Shambhavi School of Dance, Bengaluru.

"*Mahakali* is a work that was initially created as a dance film during the pandemic. We took the varied forms of Devi. And, Kali is depicted as one who is dark skinned, wearing a garland of skulls. This was the form I was most drawn to and delved deep into a research about her," says the dancer, teacher and scholar of Kuchipudi over a call from Hyderabad. Anuradha has a PhD in Traditions and Innovations in Kuchipudi Dance.

She explains that the Kali she discovered led, "me into a totally different direction, where we see her as a force of dynamic energy – the Maha Shakti as Shankaracharya calls her. This energy, when looked at in our philosophy, is multi-dimensional. I started studying the *Devi Bhagavatam* too, where Kali is talked about as the force that annihilates every evil and darkness. This was a concept I wanted to introduce through dance – Maha Shakti, the time and the cycles of time."

"Our Vedic literature has the calculation of time right from the *Truti* to the gigantic time cycles known as *Kalpas*. *Mahakali* represents all that is dynamic in nature and how miniscule we are in this vast galaxy, where nothing stops."

Anuradha, who has also authored and edited books such as *Celebrating Life: A collection of Writing, Photographs and Remembrances on Vedantam Raghavayya*, *Telangana lo Nrityam* (Telugu), *Kuchipudi Dance, Who is Who* to name a few, talks about the perception of time itself.

"Western philosophy sees time in a linear format – with a beginning and an end. In our philosophy, time is cyclic. This is also a concept established in *Mahakali,* where the end is seen not as an end, but as a pause before a new beginning. The theme is linked in a dance with Maha Shakti and the black hole, which again, is associated with Kali, who absorbs everything into herself."

Anuradha, is a recipient of the Women Achiever Award 2023 by the Government of Telangana and Padmashri Dr Shobha Naidu Lifetime Achievement Award to name a few. She currently heads the Department of Dance, at the University of Hyderabad.

Mahakali will be performed on March 15 from 5.45pm at Seva Sadan, Malleshwaram. Entry free and open to all.

Echoes of the feminine

Shilpa Anandraj

Verses of valour Carnatic vocalist Chitra Srikrishna. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Abhaya – Women Who Dared is a celebration of women where verses from the past meet voices of the present. Renowned Carnatic vocalist Chitra Srikrishna has curated the event, which will feature poetry by 8th Century women poets of India. Presented in the form of recitation and music by an all-women ensemble, *Abhaya* will feature Chitra on vocals with Prema Vivek (violin) and Deepika Srinivasan (mridangam).

An educator and writer, Chitra works to make Indian music accessible through workshops and by collaborating with diverse artistes.

"For the past few years I have been presenting thematic productions, where I have looked at the intersection of music and society to create theme-based programmes."

The singer, who teaches music appreciation, has earlier presented *Udan* (a musical exploration of birds in Indian poetry) and *Pravas* (about migrants and the journey that they undergo, their hopes and challenges).

Abhaya, Chitra says, looks at women's issues and challenges. "I was looking at poetry written by women poets across India from the sixth century onwards. I was inspired by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's quote, 'The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete'."

The quote, Chitra says, made her think about single-story narratives.

"The *vachanas* of Akka Mahadevi, Andal, or Meera Bai's *bhajans*, are celebrated for their poetry. When you look at their lives alongside their works, however, it is rendered mono-chromatically as a single story, mainly talking of devotion."

There is another story, Chitra says. "They faced caste discrimination, the trauma of child marriage, widowhood or what society expected them to be. Despite all this, they questioned patriarchy, orthodoxy and the stereotypes of the time and lived a life of valour and resilience." Chitra set some of the poems to music while others were already set to tune.

Poets who will be a part of *Abhaya* include Andal and Karaikkal Ammaiyar from Tamil Nadu, Lal Ded from Kashmir, Janabai and Soyarabai from Maharashtra, and Ambabai and Akka Mahadevi from Karnataka.

Chitra premiered a concise version of *Abhaya* at the Indian Music Experience in 2024. "The positive feedback I got pushed me to dive deeper into this subject and we are returning with Abhaya featuring more women poets."

The month of March was chosen to present Abhaya to celebrate women across ages, Chitra says. "The poetry is as relevant today as it was centuries ago. The verses speak to women across ages. There are women who have spent a lifetime following patriarchal norms. Many seek a change, which never comes."

Though the times have changed, Chitra says, the need for courage, support and solidarity among women, remains constant. "One can embrace new perspectives, without discarding the past. The past can be used as a foundation to better conditions. While younger women face challenges, older women can be powerful allies in this fight for progress."

Abhaya, Chitra says, is not just for the young. "It is for every woman who wants to question, grow and inspire. We want women of every generation to stand together and be unafraid of change."

Abhaya – Women Who Dared, is on March 14 at NGMA, 5pm. Open to all.

Smart move Home decor and self care products at Dhurthi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shop, with a conscience

Nidhi Adlakha

In 2024, a group of senior business leaders from across the country came together to pursue their shared passion for sustainability. The result? The Dhurthi Collective (TDC), whose maiden exhibition will be held in Bengaluru this weekend.

From food and fashion to home and technology, the event will bring together eco-conscious brands across segments who have been selected "based on their alignment with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), each demonstrating real impact through ethical production and innovation," says Antra Bhargava, founder and chairperson of The Dhurthi Collective. The team comprises PS Appaiah, who has experience in the agri-sector, and waste management advocate Shailaja Rangarajan, among others.

Addressing the Collective's journey, Antara says, "We have learnt so much along the way and even changed our own patterns of consumption. The team has had endless discussions, visited units, conducted questionnaires, and purchased products from many of the vendors for testing purposes," adds Antara, who also runs the charity The WoW Kitty Trust.

The event features brands such as Aulerth, Bunaavat, Praanapoorna, The Huda Bar, Headstreams, Butterfly Anna, SDGTek, Ibnii Resorts, Seedle, Bare Necessities, Chhota Baccha, The Yellow Dwelling, artist Smita Sawant who crafts driftwood sculptures, and Dhurthi, an in-house upcycled products brand.

Also part of the day's line-up is Umeed, an art exhibition in collaboration with The Aravani Art Project. While these events are open to the public, there will also be two panel discussions (by invite-only) that will delve into issues of sustainable consumption.

On March 16 at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. From 11 am to 7 pm, free entry.

Telangana forms panel to study caste survey data

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has constituted an 11-member Independent Expert Working Group headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy (retd.) to analyse and interpret the data collected during the Socio, Economic, Education, Employment, Political and Caste Survey 2024.

Principal Secretary to Government Sandeep Kumar Sultania on Wednesday issued orders constituting the Expert Working Group.

An Advisory Committee decided to constitute the Independent expert working group to carry out analysis of data of the survey conducted by the government for formulation of evidence-based policies for various social sectors in the State.

'T.N. govt. letter had no mention of accepting 3-language policy or NEP'

DMK Parliamentary Party leader Kanimozhi responds to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who had shared a letter from the T.N. government regarding its intent to sign an MoU to implement the PM SHRI scheme

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/MADURAI

> Nowhere have we mentioned that we accept the three-language policy or the National Education Policy in its entirety.
> **KANIMOZHI,** DMK MP

DMK Parliamentary Party leader and MP Kanimozhi on Wednesday said the Tamil Nadu government's letter to the Centre regarding PM SHRI clearly stated that Tamil Nadu would accept the scheme only on the basis of the recommendations of a State government-led committee, and not the Union government's recommendation.

She was responding to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who had shared a letter from the Tamil Nadu government regarding its intention to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement PM SHRI.

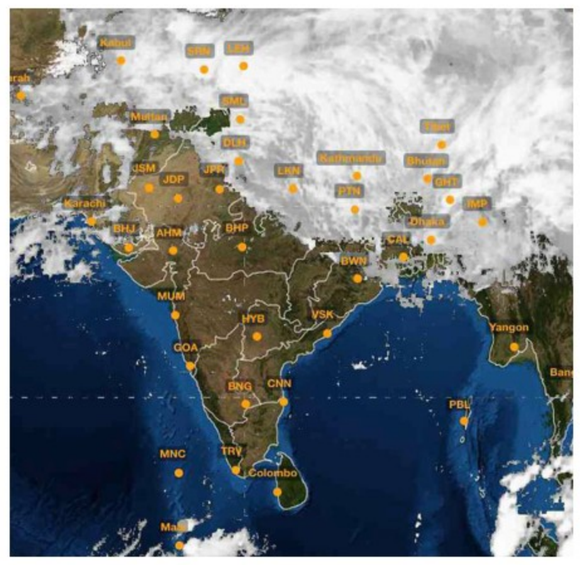
"Nowhere have we mentioned that we accept the three-language policy or the National Education Policy (NEP) in its entirety. Whatever is acceptable for Tamil Nadu, we will accept that – nothing more, nothing less. Stop twisting facts," Ms. Kanimozhi said.

Meanwhile, addressing the media during a public grievance redress meeting in the Madurai Central Assembly constituency, Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Palanivel Thiaga Rajan asked, "When the northern States implementing two-language and one-language policies have not shown any positive results in their performance, why should they bother Tamil Nadu, which leads in all parameters?" "If the Union government forces Tamil Nadu to implement the three-language policy without taking any steps to improve the performance of poor-performing States, is it not a ploy to drag our State to the level of the poor-performing States?"

"In 1968, when the National Education Policy was first brought in by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the two-language policy was implemented throughout the country. Many States would have improved their performance and rankings had they implemented that policy rigorously and efficiently," he said. His Cabinet colleague, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, too hit back at the Union Minister. "Why force a change when Tamil Nadu's education system is already producing top professionals, thinkers and innovators," he asked. In a post on X, Mr. Mahesh said, "Why disrupt a system that works better than the National Education Policy, 2020, which is a one-size-fits-all model? Don't fix what isn't broken. Tamil Nadu's education system delivers, the NEP 2020 disrupts!" Tamil Nadu's education model works well, he said, adding: "Our State Board education system has consistently produced some of the best results in higher education and employment."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi and Uttarakhand. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Odisha, Vidarbha and Gujarat

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.6	20.8	Kozhikode	—	36.5	27.0
Ahmedabad	—	40.7	21.5	Kurnool	—	39.2	22.7
Aizawl	—	31.7	15.6	Lucknow	—	34.9	18.5
Allahabad	—	36.4	16.8	Madurai	19	28.0	22.8
Bengaluru	—	32.8	20.8	Mangaluru	—	35.8	26.0
Bhopal	—	37.0	20.0	Mumbai	—	38.6	23.4
Bhubaneswar	—	36.6	18.4	Mysuru	—	34.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	33.4	15.6	New Delhi	—	33.5	17.2
Chennai	—	32.7	27.4	Patna	—	34.0	20.3
Coimbatore	7	30.4	22.0	Port Blair	—	33.0	25.7
Dehradun	—	31.9	13.9	Puducherry	—	33.0	22.0
Gangtok	7	16.0	10.4	Pune	—	40.0	22.7
Goa	—	37.0	26.0	Raipur	—	39.0	20.9
Guwahati	—	28.0	19.5	Ranchi	—	34.1	17.2
Hubballi	—	38.0	20.0	Shillong	—	20.8	12.4
Hyderabad	—	36.9	21.3	Shimla	—	25.8	13.2
Imphal	—	25.5	14.0	Srinagar	5	15.2	7.4
Jaipur	—	35.4	20.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.3	26.3
Kochi	—	32.8	27.4	Tiruchi	—	27.1	25.4
Kohima	—	23.0	14.3	Vijayawada	—	36.4	23.8
Kolkata	—	36.6	23.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.4	23.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	105	116	.22	260	211	
Bengaluru	.19	.35	.37	51	71	
Chennai	.17	169	103	25	52	
Delhi	.13	.58	.24	273	331	
Hyderabad	.6	110	.11	165	140	
Kolkata	.5	.84	.29	75	106	
Lucknow	.10	.79	.46	217	195	
Mumbai	.12	105	.32	179	206	
Pune	.22	156	.50	237	166	
Visakhapatnam	9	.54	.27	49	91	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 282 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Only EC can register plaint against candidate for filing false affidavit: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Only the Election Commission (EC) has the right to register a complaint for the offence under Section 125A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, for filing a false affidavit by the candidate while filing nomination papers to contest elections, the High Court of Karnataka has ruled.

"Section 195(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) mandates that no court shall take cognisance of the offence except upon a complaint by the public servant. This is a legal bar in terms of law. Section 125A of the Act also should pass the muster of Section 195(1) of the Cr.PC. Therefore, the offence has to be complained of only by the EC, particularly, of the offence under Section 125A of the Act," the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while quashing a private complaint filed by two individuals against Manjula Limbavali, MLA for Mahadevapura constituency, and Shailendra Beldale, MLA for Bidar South constituency, on the allegation that they had made false disclosure in their affidavits while contesting to the Legislative Assembly in the elections held in 2023.

"The offence under Section 125A of the Act is admittedly non-cognisable. The concept of any person setting the criminal law into motion of a cognisable offence would not become applicable to offences under Section 125A of the Act or even Section 176 (failure to disclose information to public servant) and Section 177 (giving false information to public servant) of the Indian Penal Code. For the alleged offences, the bar under Section 195(1) of the Cr.PC springs into operation," the court said.

A right given to the voter is only to file an election petition for violation of Section 125A and not to register a private complaint of crime, of the kind registered against the petitioners, which is the duty of the EC, if it wants to do so.

Apart from contending that an individual cannot invoke Section 125A of the RP Act, the two MLAs, in their petitions, had also denied the allegations made in the complaints that they had either provided false information or failed to make proper disclosure.

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GST No. 20AADCJ4293L2ZH

Tender Notice for MRI-3 Tesla & CT-SCAN-256 Slice

Corrigendum No. 01
The Corrigendum No-01 for Tender No- – JMC/NIT-25/MRI-CT/06 has been published in detail. Please visit the tender e-Portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

Ref:-Advt. PR No :346945 Sd/-Managing Director
PR 348514 (Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd)24-25*D JMHIDPCL.

MAHARASHTRA JEEVAN PRADHIKARAN

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 74 FOR 2024-25

Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Water Management Division, Ambernath invites e-Tender for the work of Providing Services of Semiskilled and Unskilled Staff for Fitter / Supervisor and Valve Operation, Maintenance of Pipe line at Ambernath East and West area for Two Years.

The Estimated cost of the work is **Rs. 4,00,04,745/- (Rupees Four Crore Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Five Only)**

The e-Tender details are available on www.mahatenders.gov.in. & www.mjp.maharashtra.gov.in from dtd. **13/03/2025.** All relevant dates will be as per the tender publish in web portal www.maharatenders.gov.in

Place: Ambernath
Date: 07/03/2025
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M.J.P.W.M. Division Ambernath
DGIPR/2024-2025/7053

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058. Fax:080-28094180, Ph:080-280904182, 4541

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-TN-79/2024-2025 Dated: 12.03.2025**
Name of Work	**Modification in the MV Panel in the Substation, Supply and laying of cables, Earthing for Logistic Panel at MOX Campus, ISTRAC, Peenya, Bengaluru.**
Estimate cost put to tender	**Rs. 6.52 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**02 (Two) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs. on 13.03.2025 to 19.03.2025 till 16.00 hrs**
Bid clarifications	**From 11.00 hrs. on 14.03.2025 to 20.03.2025 till 16.00 hrs**
Last date of reply to Bid clarification	**21.03.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time of receipt of tenders	**22.03.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**24.03.2025 after 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 13,040.00**

2. Interested Tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender** (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head,CMG

Dr. NTR UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES: A.P.: VIJAYAWADA - 520008

NOTIFICATION

ENTRANCE TEST FOR ADMISSION INTO M.Phil.(CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY) AND PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY COURSES FOR THE YEAR 2024-25

Applications **through online** are invited from the eligible candidates for Entrance Test for admission into M.Phil.(Clinical Psychology) and Professional Diploma in Clinical Psychology Courses for the academic year 2024-25 for the seats in INDLAS Hospital, Vijayawada affiliated to Dr. NTR UHS from 11 AM on 17-03-2025 to 11.30 PM on 01-04-2025. The Entrance Test will be held on 20-04-2025.

For all details, please refer prospectus/regulations available in the University website: **http://drntr.uhsap.in**

Dated: 12.03.2025 **Sd/- Dr. V. RADHIKA REDDY**
VIJAYAWADA (Endorsement No.2345/MPhilCP/EA1/2025) **REGISTRAR**

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶಿರಸಿ (ಉ.ಕ.)

ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08384-226338 ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.sirsicity.mrc.gov.in
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: comm_srs@yahoo.com
ನಂ. ನಸಶಿ/ನೈವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ/ವಿವ–/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.03.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ–2000 ರಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KC-8ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ, **KPP Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ರಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರೇಷನ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರಿಂದ **(1) DMA/2024-25/SE4292/CALL-2** (ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **85.00** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು **KPP Portal** ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, **KPP Portal** ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರು ಕರಾರುಗಳ ಅನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರ್ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವುದು, ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

(1) KPP Portal ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21.03.2025** (ಸಂಜೆ **16.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ) **(2) KPP Portal** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **24.03.2025** (ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ **11.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ) **(3) KPP Portal** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **25.03.2025** (ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ **11.45** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ) (ರಜಾ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು)

ಟೆಂಡರನಲ್ಲಿಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **KPP Portal** ಪ್ಲಾಟ್ ಫಾರಂನಲ್ಲಿ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು,
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಶಿರಸಿ.

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/973/24-25 dt.12.03.2025

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Ayanur Sub-Division, Shivamogga
Tel: 08182-272210 / 08182-225836
Email ID: acfayanur@gmail.com
No.: ACF/Tender-CAMPA/CR-2/2024-25 Date: 12.03.2025

Short Term e-Tender (Through e-Procurement Portal)

For the year 2025-26, under the account head CAMPA, in the forest areas falling within the jurisdiction of various forest zones of Shivamogga Regional Forest Division, short-term Tenders are invited (call-2) is invited through e-Procurement Portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for advance waterholes and preparation of plantation (including cultivation of saplings) for the year 2024-25 under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 2000, from interested forest contractors who have experience in cultivating saplings of various sizes in the Forest Department, preliminary work of plantation , and who have the necessary facilities to grow saplings and saplings in the area under which the work is to be carried out, and who are registered as forest contractors in the Forest Department.

*) The last date for submission of tender for the said works is up to 4.00 PM on 26.03.2025. For further information, this office can be contacted during office hours. And details regarding the tender can be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25/93/03/1864

PUBLIC NOTICE

That by virtue of Sale Deed dated 13th July 2018 (13.07.2018) executed by M/s Prestige Sunrise Investments in favour of Mr.Sharanu Patil and Mrs.Mamtha Patil vide Document No.BSG-1-02555-2018-2019, Stored in CD No.BSGD331, dated 13.07.2018 in the Office of the Sub Registrar, Basavanagudi are the absolute owners and upon executing of the Sale Deed dated 13.07.2018, the Seller has handed over original Sale Deed and as well as original Agreement to Sell and Construction Agreement both dated 06.08.2014.

Notice is hereby given that the original Agreement to Sell and Construction Agreement dated 06.08.2014 executed between M/s Prestige Sunrise Investments in favour of Mr.Sharanu Patil, has been lost and inspite of best efforts made by me, I/we have not been able to trace the original Agreement to Sell and Construction Agreement both dated 06.08.2014.

In this regard a Police Complaint is lodged on 10.03.2025 with Bengaluru City Police in Lost Report No.1513399 to find/locate the lost original Agreement to Sell and Construction Agreement both dated 06.08.2014 and also to prevent misuse of the said documents.

If found or anybody is in possession of the original Agreement to Sell and Construction Agreement both dated 06.08.2014 may kindly return to **Mr.SHARANU PATIL**, Mobile No.9844169664; drsharanupatil@gmail.com within 7 days.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Apartment bearing No.2122 in Level12/Eleventh Floor of Tower-2, in "PRESTIGE SUNRISE PARKBIRCHWOOD" constructed in Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1342 Sq. Feet of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement Level and the apartment is presently bearing CMC Khata No.2316/11thF/B-2122 in the records of CMC, Hebbagodi and Property situated in Gollahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk.

Name of the Person: **Mr.SHARANU PATIL AND Mrs. MAMATHA PATIL**, residing at No.20, NTI Layout, 5th Main, RMV 2 nd Stage, Bengaluru-560094.

Aeronautical Development Agency
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017

Advt Reference No. : ADA:ADV-131 **28-02-2025**

Filling up of one post in the Designation of 'Joint Director' in Pay Level-13 (123100-215900) on Deputation Basis at ADA

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is a Society and an Autonomous Organization under the Department of Defence R&D, Ministry of Defence (MOD), Government of India, entrusted with the task of Design and Development of Tejas (LCA), AMCA and other projects of national importance. Applications are hereby invited from eligible officers of Central / State Government / Central Autonomous Bodies / Public Sector Undertakings / Union Territory Administration for filling up one post of **'Joint Director (Finance & Accounts)'** on deputation basis at ADA, Bangalore. The details are as mentioned below:

Name of the Post	Pay Level	No. of Post	Initial Term of Deputation
Joint Director (Finance & Accounts)	13	01	3 Years

2. **Eligibility:** Officers of the organizations as mentioned above holding analogous post on regular basis in the parent cadre/department **OR** WITH three years regular service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis in level-12 (Rs.788000-209200/-) or above in the pay matrix or equivalent in the parent cadre or department.

3. Interested officers may please visit ADA website: **www.ada.gov.in** for eligibility, conditions, format of application & enclosures and other details of the notification. Applications in prescribed format completed in all respects with necessary enclosures may be forwarded through proper channel to Director (Admin & HR), Aeronautical Development Agency, Vibhuthipura, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore - 560 037 by Regd./ Speed post so as to reach ADA by **18th April 2025.**

Director (Admin & HR), ADA

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
		Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.			
1	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/ 5630/2024-25 Date: 10.03.2025(2nd Call)	Rs. 69,32,858/- / Rs. 1,38,700/-	19.03.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	21.03.2025 after 5:00 p.m.
		Sd/- Executive Engineer (East)-1.			
		Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.			
2	South-2	BWSSB/EES2/TO/PB/ 2450/2024-25 Date: 03.03.2025(2nd Call)	Rs. 77,95,942/- / Rs. 1,55,950/-	19.03.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	21.03.2025 after 4:00 p.m.
		Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-2).			

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/5613/2024-25

Govt of Karnataka
O/o Executive Engineer, PWD, Udupi Division
Udupi - 576101.
C.No: (0820) 2531802

No.PWD:UDN:NIT-39:2024-25:AE-2 **Dated: 11.03.2025**

Short Term Tender Notification

It is here by notified for the information of intending registered contractor, of Class II and III above in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" as per Karnataka tranperency in public procurement act 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in for work costing from Rs. 79.40 to 314.79 lakh (excluding GST) under H/A 5054 - MDR Improvement and Renewal - Indent No. 19963, 19913 & 19962. The Last date for submission of tender for Indent No. 19913 & 19962 is 19.03.2025 and Indent No. 19963 is 27.03.2025 upto 5.30PM through E-procurement portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in"

Executive Engineer
Public Works Department, Udupi Division, Udupi

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 06/2025 Date: 07-03-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
1	30251177	Double acting hydraulic shock absorber	1038 Nos	20.03.2025
2	33251337	Must Change Kit of 22 items	196 Sets	01.04.2025
3	33251350	N2 Board for WSP System of LHB type Coaches	29 Nos	07.04.2025
4	12255002	3 Phase Induction Traction Motor	16 Nos	07.04.2025
5	33251035	Primary Vertical Damper for All Type of LHB Coaches	5993 Nos	08.04.2025
6	33251041	Pad For Secondary Suspension	2223 Nos	14.04.2025
7	33251338	Must Change kit of 16 items	343 Sets	21.04.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/840/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Welcome gesture

The ECI's changed approach to engaging with critics is a good move

The initiative by the newly appointed commissioners of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to invite political party representatives and leaders for an interaction to "strengthen electoral processes" is a welcome move. The move was precipitated by the rising complaints and grievances raised by the Opposition relating to voter registration and turnout, and other matters concerning the conduct of elections. The ECI has also asked parties to submit suggestions on issues concerned besides instructing provincial officials to interact with party representatives on a regular basis. In the recent past, the ECI had taken an unusually aggressive posture in responding to the Opposition's complaints, which included being dismissive of genuine grievances such as undue delays in publishing voter turnout figures and even going on to admonish its critics. Such gestures only deepened distrust among political parties. While the Opposition has sown so much doubt on issues such as the functioning of the Electronic Voting Machine, resulting in an atmosphere of scepticism seeping into the minds of a majority of voters, the ECI could also have done more to reassure voters about the robustness of the electoral process related to electronic voting. Other legitimate issues, which include regulation of campaigns, action against hate speech, and the timing of elections at various levels also need a thoroughgoing review, and the ECI must be receptive to the critique of its functioning on these issues. There is also the question of the constitution of the ECI and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner, but that is a matter now in the hands of the Supreme Court.

One of Indian democracy's most salient features since Independence has been the ECI's evolution and its autonomous role in the conduct of periodic elections, leading to increased voter participation and more faith in electoral democracy. This conduct, as the processes evolved, has emphasised transparency, accountability, and the clear and robust release of relevant and verifiable information related to elections. While the Electors Photo Identification Card issue related to duplicate numbers for voters across States is largely trivial – as the ECI has averred – the more serious issues related to voters being registered in different polling locations require to be rectified. The ECI must also ensure a level playing field during campaigns so that there is no undue advantage for the ruling party – a grievance widely expressed by Opposition forces across States. Regular interactions with political party representatives and a clear release of verifiable information will go a long way in allaying fears about the tried and tested electoral process in the country.

Time for truce

Russia should use the ceasefire opportunity to end the war

Ukraine's decision to accept an 'immediate, interim' 30-day ceasefire with Russia, which can be extended upon mutual agreements, is an important first step towards shutting down the three-year-long war. The decision, announced in a joint statement issued by the U.S. and Ukraine, after senior-level talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, also shows that U.S. President Donald Trump's heavy-pressure tactics seem to be working on Kyiv, at least for now. Until recently, Ukraine had ruled out any ceasefire, arguing that Moscow would use a truce to rearm itself. Ukraine, which had demanded a complete Russian withdrawal from all the territories it had captured, including Crimea, as a pre-condition for talks, had floated the idea of freezing the conflict on the current line of contact in return for NATO membership. Later, Kyiv's demand shifted to security guarantees from the West. But the Trump administration ratcheted up the pressure by halting all military assistance and intelligence sharing. Up against the wall in Jeddah, Ukraine accepted the American proposal and agreed to sign a mineral deal "to expand Ukraine's economy" and guarantee its "long-term prosperity and security". The U.S. immediately resumed military and intelligence assistance for Kyiv.

But more complicated is the next step. The ball is now "in Russia's court", said Marco Rubio, the U.S. Secretary of State, after the Jeddah talks. U.S. officials are expected to travel to Moscow to discuss the proposal. If there is a ceasefire, Russia and Ukraine are expected to begin direct talks, to bring the war to a definite end. But, both sides have escalated their air war. Last week, Russia launched massive missile and air strikes on Ukraine, targeting its energy infrastructure. On Tuesday, hours before the Jeddah talks began, Ukraine unleashed its largest drone strike on several parts of Russia, including Moscow. Russia is also making dramatic advances in its Kursk region, where Ukraine still holds on to some territory. If Mr. Trump had leverage over Ukraine with which he forced Kyiv into accepting his proposal, he has very little influence over the Kremlin. But Russia should see the tilt in Washington and the U-turn in Kyiv as an opportunity. It has also suffered huge losses and its relationship with the West, in particular with Europe, has been badly damaged. Its economy is under heavy sanctions. The U.S. has already accepted some of Vladimir Putin's demands, such as ruling out NATO membership for Ukraine. Instead of continuing this disastrous, illegal war, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives on both sides, the Kremlin should respond positively to the offer for truce and start direct talks with Ukraine to find a lasting solution to the conflict.

What the recent GDP data revisions reveal

C. Rangarajan

is former Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

D.K. Srivastava

is Honorary Professor, Madras School of Economics and Member, Advisory Council to the Sixteenth Finance Commission

Real and nominal growth rates have been revised upwards, which should shape medium-term potential growth and long-term strategy

National accounts data released on February 28, 2025 by the National Statistical Office (NSO) provide two sets of information pertaining to, first, revised annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)/Gross Value Added (GVA) estimates for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 and, second, Q3 2024-25 GDP/GVA estimates accompanied by the second advance estimates for 2024-25.

Third quarter growth, sectoral performance

The third quarter growth of 6.2% is a clear improvement over the second quarter growth of 5.6%. In terms of sectoral performance, agriculture has shown a robust growth of 5.6% in this quarter. Manufacturing, however, continues to languish with a growth of 3.5%, although there is a marginal improvement from the previous quarter when its growth was only 2.1%. In the services sector, the trade sector, hospitality/hotels, *et al.* have also shown an improved growth of 6.7% as compared to 6.1% in Q2.

Looking at the four quarterly real GDP growth rates of 2024-25 at 6.5%, 5.6%, 6.2%, and 7.6%, respectively, two questions are of interest. First, what led to a sharp fall in the second quarter growth to 5.6%? Second, is the implied fourth quarter growth of 7.6% feasible? To examine this, we look at the contribution to growth of different expenditure segments as measured by the share of the segment concerned multiplied by its growth in the relevant quarter.

The contribution of private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) to overall GDP growth in the four quarters of 2024-25 is estimated at 4.3, 3.3, 4.1 and 5.3 percentage points, respectively. The fall in real GDP growth in the second quarter, from 6.5% to 5.6%, is explained by the fall in the contribution of PFCE growth from 4.3 to 3.3 percentage points. Further, the required growth in PFCE is estimated at 9.9% for the implied fourth quarter GDP growth of 7.6%. This seems difficult as such a high growth in PFCE has not been experienced in the recent past. The contribution of investment to growth can also be similarly measured. This is estimated at 2.3, 2.0, 1.8 and 2.1 percentage points for the four quarters of 2024-25, respectively. Thus, the relatively lower GDP growth of 6.2% in the third quarter is partly attributable to the fall in contribution of investment to GDP growth at 1.8 percentage points.

However, the required contribution of 2.1 percentage points in the fourth quarter would depend largely on government investment growth. As per the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, the Government of India has incurred ₹7.57 lakh crore of capital expenditure up to January 2025. To reach the revised estimate level of ₹10.18 lakh crore, an additional ₹2.61 lakh crore needs to be spent in the remaining two months of the financial year. Average expenditure in February and March in the period 2021-22 to 2023-24 has only been ₹1.81 lakh crore. If the Government of India's investment expenditure falls short of the revised estimates – which were themselves significantly lower than the Budget estimates of ₹11.1 lakh crore – then the implied fourth quarter GDP growth of 7.6% may not be realised. Accordingly, the full year growth of 6.5% as per the second advance estimates may have to be revised downwards.

Annual data revisions

According to the revised annual numbers, the real as well as nominal growth rates have been revised upwards. Real GDP growth rates for 2022-23 to 2024-25, are now estimated at 7.6, 9.2 and 6.5%, respectively. In 2023-24, the revision in GDP growth was from 8.2% to 9.2%, and correspondingly in GVA growth from 7.2% to 8.6%.

Sectorally, the maximum upward revision in growth happened in manufacturing and in financial, real estate, *et al.* services by margins of 2.4 and 1.9 percentage points, respectively. Further, comparing 2024-25 growth with that of 2023-24, real GDP growth shows a sharp fall of 2.7 percentage points. This fall is largely explained by the lower growth in gross capital formation, which fell from 10.5% in 2023-24 to 5.8% in 2024-25.

The revision in real GDP growth also implies a revision in the Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR). In fact, for the three years for which data have been revised, the ICOR is estimated at 4.8, 4.0 and 5.5 in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively. It may be observed that the ICOR had fallen considerably in 2023-24. However, this number may be revised again, as in this year, the contribution of discrepancies has remained very large. The average ICOR for 2022-23 and 2024-25 is 5.1. It must be noted that such sharp revisions make policy advice and policy making difficult.

Prospects for 2025-26, medium-term growth

The nominal growth rates have also been revised upwards, showing higher growth rates of 14%, 12% and 9.9% in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively. Given these trends, even the nominal GDP growth in 2025-26 may be higher than the Budget 2025-26 assumption of 10.1%. With respect to real GDP growth, the Economic Survey has given a range of 6.3%-6.8% with a mid-point of 6.55%. A 6.5% growth appears feasible for 2025-26 provided government investment shows healthy growth in the context of continued global uncertainty and some more time is required for private investment to pick up. As of now, the medium-term potential growth appears to be 6.5%. It is argued sometimes that the PFCE to GDP ratio should rise so that growth will increase because of increased consumption demand. But this overlooks the fact that, correspondingly, the investment demand will fall.

In 2023-24, the overall nominal saving rate is estimated at 30.7%, which is below the pre-COVID-19 period average of 31.2% during 2015-16 to 2019-20. The medium-term growth strategy should focus on increasing saving and investment rates. As noted by observers earlier, the real investment rate tends to be higher than the nominal investment rate because of differential price deflators of investment goods *vis-à-vis* consumption goods. In 2024-25, the real investment rate measured by gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) to GDP ratio, is estimated at 33.4%. With an ICOR of 5.1, this yields a potential growth rate of 6.5%. As of now, investment-led growth as a long-term strategy holds good.

The views expressed are personal

The dangerous illusion cast by development rankings

Chirag Dhara

is a climate and sustainability scientist at Krea University, India

Soumyajit Bhar

is a scholar of consumption and sustainability at BML Munjal University, India

Metrics such as the United Nations' HDI and PHDI ignore the limits of a finite planet earth

California was on fire once again. The recent wildfires were so catastrophic that some estimates placed the total economic damage at around $250 billion, which is an amount rivalling Greece's GDP in 2023. What the California fires have shown us is the true cost of development models pursued by the world's richest countries.

If every nation consumed resources at the rate of the United States or the European Union, we would need multiple earths to sustain our way of life. Yet, international benchmarks such as the United Nations' Human Development Index (HDI) continue to project these nations as aspirational models of development. This disconnect between celebrated metrics and ecological realities is not just flawed. It is dangerous.

Misguided progress

For decades, the HDI has shaped how countries, including India, perceive progress. The index focuses on three dimensions: life expectancy, education, and income. But it ignores a crucial fourth dimension – the environmental pressures that inevitably accompany high HDI scores. Countries such as Ireland, Norway and Switzerland that top HDI rankings, are among the world's biggest resource consumers and carbon polluters per person. If their development models were adopted globally, the planet would collapse under the weight of material demands and carbon emissions.

High-income countries have already overshot multiple planetary boundaries, ranging from greenhouse gas emissions and ecological destruction to over-pollution. The HDI's failure to account for these transgressions promotes a misguided and unsustainable model of development, celebrating the gains of affluence to the few without conceding its cost to the collective. In response to decades of critique from sustainability experts, the UN introduced a modified index in 2020: the Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI (PHDI). This measure downgrades HDI scores for countries with high environmental impacts. Yet, even the PHDI falls short as it still ranks countries only in relation to one another rather than against absolute ecological limits. For example, the Nordic countries, consuming over five earths' worth of resources per capita, continue to score highly not because their lifestyles are truly sustainable, but because other nations (such as Qatar) fare even worse.

This relativist approach masks a fundamental reality: the rest of the world cannot scale up to the lifestyle of high-income countries without severely overshooting the planet's finite limits. In effect, the PHDI engineers a dangerous illusion of progress while perpetuating status quo.

Celebrate the middle-income countries

Our own research takes a different approach. We ask which countries have achieved decent living standards that could theoretically be scaled globally without driving the planet towards climate and ecological collapse.

Here, middle-income countries such as Costa Rica and Sri Lanka emerge as instructive examples. Costa Rica has achieved impressive outcomes – high life expectancy, universal health care, and near-universal literacy – while maintaining a resource footprint that is far lower than that of affluent nations. Decades of strategic investments in renewable energy and forest conservation have enabled it to align human development with environmental stewardship.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, offers a mixed picture. With an HDI of 0.78, which is well above many of its South Asian peers, its early investments in universal health care and education have delivered life expectancy and literacy rates comparable to those of wealthier countries. Yet, recent events underscore the many challenges its faces. The 2022 economic crisis, marked by severe inflation, mass protests, and political instability, revealed deep vulnerabilities. Moreover, a legacy of majoritarian policies and ethnic tensions has, at times, led to episodes of severe violence against minorities, stalling their progress. Sri Lanka teaches us that achieving sustainability requires more than balancing environmental and social progress. It demands justice within and between nations.

India needs to look for alternatives

The lesson is clear: the glittering promise of the Nordic model is, at best, a local phenomenon and, at worst, an unsustainable mirage when applied globally. India, with its 1.4 billion people, cannot afford to mimic the consumption patterns of affluent nations. Instead, it must look to alternatives. While neither Costa Rica nor Sri Lanka is perfect, they offer valuable starting points for crafting an alternative development pathway that respects our planet's limits and upholds social and ecological justice.

Ultimately, the deeper question we face is to reconceptualise "progress" and "development" in light of the 21st century facts of planetary health. Metrics such as the HDI and PHDI treat growth as an unqualified good, ignoring the limits of a finite planet.

For India, as for the entire developing world, true progress must mean more than GDP growth or higher HDI rankings. It must create a society wherein every citizen lives with dignity and safely within ecological boundaries. This is not just a moral imperative or a utopian dream. It is a necessary strategy for survival in the 21st century.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reaching out

The Election Commission of India's move to invite parties for talks to strengthen the election process is one that must be seen with scepticism (March 12). One wonders why it has had a change in attitude considering its stand in the past towards any criticism or even genuine suggestions.

But now that it has tried to change, it must consider these steps. Much before the general election, say six months ahead, the President, through the Cabinet Secretary at the Centre, and the Governor through the Chief Secretary in States, should publish a report on the 'Status of the Nation' or '... the State' as the case may be, which will explain in simple terms, what the state of finances, education, agriculture, industrial development, foreign relations and defence are. This will let the nation know where exactly we stand. This should be done automatically without the involvement of the ruling/Opposition parties. Every political party should publish its manifesto, outlining expected time-bound end-results. These are issues that should be open to challenge in a court of law.

T.S. Rao,
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

Although conducting elections in the world's largest democracy is no child's play, and the Election Commission of India has been straining every sinew to ensure that every aspect involved in the poll process is taken care of, there have been occasions when fingers have been pointed at the Commission for exhibiting bias in favour of the ruling party. The invitation to all political parties is a golden opportunity for the Opposition to air views freely and discuss issues threadbare. The ECI should also have an open and receptive mind and listen to the grievances of the Opposition. It is time the ECI endeavours to dispel the notion that it is often seen as a handmaiden of the powers that be.

C.V. Aravind,
Chennai

Jaffar Express siege

Even though the siege of a train and the hostage drama in Pakistan's southwest region is probably a rare event, it does not leave one surprised at all ("Several killed, hundreds held hostage as armed militants attack train in Pak." March 12). Pakistan is a country that has the dubious distinction of being a terror-state in itself. Pakistan's long innings in supporting terror outfits and giving terror elements safe haven on its soil, and its patronage of terror networks and terror training centres will all result in 'As you sow, so shall you reap'.

R. Sampath,
Chennai

The train hijack episode once again highlights the vulnerability of Pakistan as far as terrorist attacks are concerned. Decades of sponsoring terrorism will result in misery. Supporting terrorism is like feeding a poisonous snake, which will bite the feeding hand. There is no better example than Pakistan for this.

T. Chandra Sekhar,
Hyderabad

The incident is shocking and one hopes that there is no repeat of such an event. One also hopes that it does not give ideas to terror outfits across the world. Imagine the chaos if this happens in India.

V. Subramaniam,
Chennai

India-Canada ties

It is welcome that Canadian Prime Minister-elect Mark Carney is keen to reset ties with India (Editorial, "New opportunity", March 12). It is no exaggeration to say that the outgoing leader, Justin Trudeau, was odd in his governance.

Though Mr. Carney seems to have a promising start, he could face a raft of challenging issues. How he handles U.S. President Donald Trump's strident rhetoric on Canada will be watched.

Rajamani Chelladurai,
Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

Compassionate care

The article, "Building compassion into the health-care structure" (Editorial page, March 12), should be read by health-care staff including doctors, nurses and paramedical workers. A railway retiree, I frequent the railway hospital to avail of post-retirement medical care, and for my spouse as well, as we are chronic diabetic patients. I come across deficiencies in service, leave alone a compassionate approach being shown by some of the staff. Of course, it cannot be a generalisation. Many doctors and nurses give us exemplary care.

N. Sadasivan Pillai,
Guntakal, Andhra Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Resolving the vexatious fishing dispute

T. Ramakrishnan

Last week, the Leader of the House in the Sri Lankan Parliament, Bimal Rathnayake, called upon the Indian and Tamil Nadu governments to take "decisive action" against " illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters". Mr. Rathnayake, also the Transport and Highways Minister, is a key figure in the ruling Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)-led National People's Power (NPP) government.

While acknowledging the support of India in general, and Tamil Nadu in particular, to his country during the civil war, the economic crisis, and floods, Mr. Rathnayake made it clear that "the real help" would be to help protect the livelihood of Tamil-speaking fishermen of the Northern Province, who have been "victims of illegal fishing".

In recent years, this is the first time that a high-ranking dignitary from Sri Lanka has spoken so strongly about the festering Palk Bay fisheries dispute, which should have been resolved long ago. In March 2015, the then Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, defended the response of the Sri Lanka Navy to Indian fishermen and termed it as legitimate to "shoot fishermen" trespassing into Sri Lankan waters.

A pernicious practice

So far, neither the External Affairs Ministry nor the Tamil Nadu government's representative has reacted to Mr. Rathnayake's statement. This is not surprising; it is an open secret that fishermen from the districts of Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, and from the Karaikal district of the Union Territory of Puducherry, have been crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line for fishing, in pursuit of their livelihoods. More than illegal fishing, fisherfolk of the Northern Province have been complaining about bottom trawling by Indian fishermen. Widely condemned for its destructive impact on marine ecosystems, bottom trawling is responsible for nearly half of all discarded fish and marine life globally and disrupts the breeding cycle. The asymmetric economic relationship between the Tamil Nadu fishing community, which is wealthier, and the Sri Lankan fisherfolk from the Northern Province, which is recovering from the aftermath of the civil war, complicates the situation. The north Sri Lankan fishermen, who depend on conventional forms of fishing, are seeking a sustainable solution to protect their waters from over-exploitation.

At the same time, the Indian fishermen are constrained by many factors. There is a small area available for fishing within Indian waters, which is marked by rocks and coral reefs. The Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, restricts fishing activities along the Tamil Nadu coastline. Unlike the current 24-hour voyages in the Palk Bay region, the duration for deep-sea fishing, which has long been suggested as an alternative to the fisherfolk, takes around three weeks and naturally involves higher costs of operation and labour. Moreover, diversification requires fishermen to change their orientation, which, in a traditional occupation, can only happen in a gradual manner. It is for these and other reasons that the joint scheme executed by the Union and State governments for deep-sea fishing since July 2017 has come as a cropper.

Needless to say, the governments of India and Tamil Nadu should do more to wean away fishermen from the pernicious practice of bottom trawling, such as by promoting seaweed cultivation, open sea cage cultivation, and sea/ocean ranching. The least the Union government can do is to merge the ₹1,600-crore Palk Bay deep-sea fishing scheme with the ₹20,050-crore Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. This will help fishermen participate more in deep-sea fishing, given the higher unit cost allowed for deep-sea fishing vessels.

The importance of talks

But Mr. Rathnayake must be aware that given the complexity of the problem, it is not so easy for any government to bring about such a transition swiftly, let alone seamlessly. What he did not address was his government's attitude towards facilitating talks between the fishermen of the two countries. Both the Indian and Tamil Nadu governments have favoured the resumption of talks between fishermen; these were last held in New Delhi in November 2016. At the last Joint Working Group meeting in Colombo in October last year, the Indian team raised the demand for talks. Even a delegation of fishermen from the Northern Province, who recently met officials of the Indian Consulate General in Jaffna, expressed its willingness to resume discussions with their counterparts on the other side of the Palk Bay. But surprisingly, the NPP government has been silent on this matter. Nothing much can be read into its attitude since it has not even completed six months in office.

The next few months would, in fact, be ideal for the talks to take place, as the annual two-month-long ban on fishing in the eastern coast of India ordinarily begins in mid-April. The senior JVP leader would do well to convince his colleagues, both within and outside the regime, of the need for negotiations which could pave the way for an agreement between the two sides to put an end to this practice. Opposition MP Mano Ganesan said that Colombo should take up the fisheries dispute with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is expected to visit Sri Lanka in April. Colombo will then have an excellent opportunity to not only support the resumption of talks between the fishermen, but also offer to host the negotiations.

ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

Talks between the fishermen of India and Sri Lanka could pave the way for an agreement to put an end to bottom trawling

A State under severe financial stress

Restoring Andhra Pradesh's financial status is going to be an arduous task

STATE OF PLAY

G.V.R. Subba Rao
subbarao.gavaravarapu@thehindu.co.in

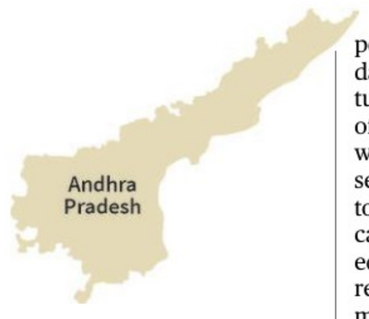
The Andhra Pradesh government presented a Budget of more than ₹3.22 lakh crore for FY2025-26. The fiscal trends, revenue and fiscal deficits, and amount of public debt show that the State's finances are severely stressed. It looks like the government is staring at tough days ahead.

Public debt, the total amount of money that a government borrows to fund its spending, is estimated to increase to ₹1.02 lakh crore in FY2025-26. Andhra Pradesh will be witnessing a quantum jump of more than ₹25,000 crore in public debt in just one year. Public debt as a percentage of GSDP was ₹4.91 lakh crore in FY2023-24 and has increased to ₹5.60 lakh crore in 2024-25. The Budget Estimate (BE) of public debt as a percentage of GSDP for FY2025-26 is ₹6.40 lakh crore.

According to experts, the surge in public debt is largely due to "freebies, fewer tax revenues, and meagre capital expenditure." They say that the government has not focused on physical infrastructure and human infrastructure, such as health and education, and advise it to bring down fiscal deficit.

According to Budget documents, 18% of government expenditure goes towards interest and principal repayment. The government will have to pay more than ₹44,000 crore on interest and principal payments per annum if the fiscal deficit of ₹79,926 crore and revenue deficit of ₹33,185 crore are to be considered.

Tax revenues are not increasing to match the burgeoning expenditure on welfare schemes. The government spends 18% on welfare, 11% on education and 6% on health.



Given the grim state of finances, the government may find it difficult to implement its electoral promises. The Budget document indicates that the government has decided to postpone the implementation of some of its key promises. The Budget also provides limited scope for ambitious infrastructure projects.

For the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme, to provide ₹20,000 to every farmer, the government has allotted ₹6,300 crore. It has allocated ₹9,407 crore for the Thalli Ki Vandnam scheme, under which each student in a family will receive ₹15,000. The government has also announced that it will revive the Aadarana scheme to support artisans, craftsmen, and other traditional occupations by allocating ₹1,000 crore to it.

The government mentioned Godavari-Banakacherla, an ambitious intra-linking of rivers initiative with an estimated cost of over ₹80,000 crore. But no funds seem to have been allocated for this project.

The pressing need is to increase capital expenditure to fuel growth and development. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav said in his Budget speech, "Capital expenditure for the government means expenditure on irrigation, roads, dams, etc., which gives returns in future This is the goal of capital expenditure." However, the Budget figures present a different picture. Of a total outlay of ₹3,22,359 crore, capital expenditure is estimated at a mere ₹40,635 crore and revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹2,51,162 crore. To overcome resource constraints, the government seems to have come up with a viability gap funding scheme, with a corpus of ₹2,000 crore.

The Finance Minister said, "Economic growth is back on track." Nevertheless, there is a gap between the BE and the Revised Estimates (RE) for revenue receipts in FY2024-25. The government estimated that revenue receipts would be ₹2,01,173.61 crore. The RE points out that the receipts, however, stood at ₹1,76,031 crore. While the BE for tax revenue were ₹1,09,789.18 crore, the RE stood at ₹94,966.53 crore during FY2024-25. Similarly, non-tax revenues stood at ₹7,018.05 crore in RE as against ₹10,576 crore in BE for FY2024-25.

At this juncture, restoring Andhra Pradesh's financial status is an arduous task for the government. The government has not hinted at how it plans to improve state-owned resources and bring down debt liabilities.

It is clear that government will have to augment its revenue resources. It also needs to bring down the dependency on borrowed funds for financing revenue/current expenditure and formulate a debt management strategy.

The debts raised should be utilised for creating wealth rather than bridging the revenue or fiscal deficit. The government has to balance fiscal discipline with ambitious promises.

Should India focus on its global image or domestic concerns?

According to a Lokniti-CSDS survey, many citizens feel that the government's resources should be directed towards pressing domestic concerns

DATA POINT

Jyoti Mishra & Sanjal Shastri

In recent years, India has emerged as a significant player in global diplomacy, particularly through its presidency of the G20 Summit. This role has elevated the country's international stature. It has equally sparked debates about priorities, i.e., whether India should focus on enhancing its global image or address pressing domestic concerns.

This article, which explores these discussions, is based on a study, Indian perceptions of Europe and Germany, conducted by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The study surveyed 5,248 respondents through face-to-face interviews across 50 cities in 10 States and three Union Territories. Using systematic random sampling, the study ensured balanced representation across urban strata (Tier I, II, and III cities). The fieldwork was conducted between August 29 and September 26, 2024, by trained field investigators.

Point of contention

A major point of contention is whether the government's emphasis on enhancing India's global image through grand international events is justified or whether the funds should be redirected to alleviate domestic poverty. Survey data suggest that over two-fifths (42%) of respondents believe that the money spent on beautifying cities for summits such as G20 should instead be allocated to poverty alleviation. This shows that a segment of the population prioritises domestic economic needs over foreign policy ambitions. In contrast, three in 10 (29%) respondents support prioritising India's global image, seeing events such as the G20 as an opportunity to showcase India's progress on an international stage **(Table 1)**.

The data also reveal that class plays a role in shaping these opinions. Among lower-income respondents, over one-third (36%) advocate redirecting funds towards poverty relief, while only one in five support spending on beautification of cities. Conversely, two in five (39%) respondents from the upper class believe that enhancing India's image is essential, although over two in five (42%) of them also agree that funds should help alleviate poverty. This divergence underscores the challenge of balancing foreign policy initiatives with domestic socioeconomic needs.

Opinion on liberalisation

As India negotiates a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union, public opinion on trade liberalisation remains divided. About 37% of the respondents believe that increasing exports is the best way to strengthen India's position in the global market, while 39% believe that limiting exports to focus on the domestic market would be a better strategy **(Table 2).** This data reflects a broader debate on trade policies. While the government is keen to expand global trade, particularly with the EU, a significant portion of the public remains sceptical about whether this will truly benefit India's economy or primarily serve multinational corporations and elite business interests.

One area where public opinion is more decisive is agriculture. When asked whether India should limit import of food grains to protect domestic farmers, 64% of respondents agreed, indicating widespread support for import substitution policies. Only 12% of the respondents supported importing more foodgrains even if it came at the cost of Indian farmers **(Table 3)**. This reflects a strong sentiment against excessive reliance on foreign food imports, which many believe could hurt domestic farmers. The government's push for an FTA with the EU raises concerns that increased agricultural imports might threaten the livelihoods of Indian farmers. While trade liberalisation may have economic benefits, the public remains wary of its impact on the agricultural sector.

The Indian government's current economic strategy appears to be focused on enhancing India's global standing through trade agreements and international summits. However, public opinion suggests a mixed response to these priorities. While a segment of the population supports economic liberalisation and foreign policy ambitions, a substantial portion believes that domestic concerns such as poverty alleviation and protection of farmers should take priority.

This disconnect raises important questions about policymaking in India. Should the government align its economic and foreign policies more closely with public sentiment, or should it continue its long-term strategy of positioning India as a global economic power? The upcoming FTA with the EU will be a key test of this balancing act, determining whether the government's pursuit of global economic integration aligns with the priorities of its citizens.

While India's role in global diplomacy is expanding, so is the debate about its impact on domestic priorities. While international summits such as the G20 and trade agreements with the EU showcase India's economic progress, many citizens feel that the government's resources should be directed towards pressing domestic concerns, particularly poverty alleviation and farmer protection. The mixed public opinion on trade and economic liberalisation underlines the need for a balanced approach. The government must find ways to integrate India into the global economy while addressing the concerns of those who feel left behind.

Jyoti Mishra is a researcher at Lokniti-CSDS and Sanjal Shastri is Assistant Professor at FLAME University, Pune

Perception and priorities

The data for the tables is from a study, Indian perceptions of Europe and Germany, conducted by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Table 1: Opinions on whether India should use funds for its global image or to address domestic poverty

Opinion on international summits such as the G20	India's image is essential (%)	Funds should help poor people (%)	No response (%)	Not heard of G20 summit (%)
Overall	**29**	**42**	**18**	**11**
Poor	20	36	23	21
Lower	27	41	21	11
Middle	31	46	16	7
Upper	39	42	14	5

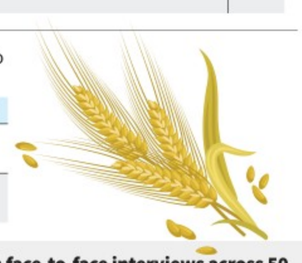
Question asked: Some people believe beautifying cities before international summits such as G20 is essential to enhance India's global image. Others argue that this money could be better spent addressing poverty.
What is your opinion?

Table 2: Public opinion on balancing exports and strengthening the domestic market

Answer	(%)
Exporting goods and products can improve India's international image	37
India should limit exports to strengthen the domestic market	39

Table 3: Public opinion on import substitution to protect farmers

Answer	(%)
India should limit food grain imports to protect farmers	64
India should import more food grains at the cost of farmers	12



The survey involved 5,248 respondents through face-to-face interviews across 50 cities in 10 States and three Union Territories

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 13, 1975

States not permitted to have own flags

New Delhi, March 12: Home Ministry sources indicated here to-day that there was no question of permitting any State to have its own flag. The national flag is the only one that could fly atop certain buildings in all the States and this practice is in conformity with the spirit behind having a national flag, and a National Anthem.

The plea of Tamil Nadu, that it would continue to press for a separate flag, is stated to be not in conformity with the accepted view that the States in the country are but integral parts of the nation and they cannot have their own flags which would only promote fissiparous tendencies. Home Ministry sources also said that the demand for State autonomy has nothing to do with the demand for a separate flag and the latter could not be accepted under any circumstances.

The whole subject has come into focus consequent on the decision taken by the Tamil Nadu Government to remove the national flag from the building of the Inspector-General's Office and fly instead the police standard with the State emblem on it. It has been said by the Home Ministry sources that the IG's office has never been included in the list of buildings on which the national flag could ordinarily fly. The circular which was sent to the States sometime ago stating the position on the use of the national flag was just the one that was originally issued in 1958.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 13, 1925

British Army estimates

London, March 12: The Army estimates for 1925-26 amount to £44,500,000 compared with £44,000,000 for 1924-25. Establishment for the regular Army takes up £160,666 compared with £161,000 last year, including maintenance cost of 4,000 Indian troops employed by the Air Ministry in Iraq.

The reduction is due to administrative economics and not to reduction of fighting units. There is a shortage of two to three thousand in the strength of the British Army, excluding British troops in India, which are approximately up to the establishment. Recruiting during the past 12 months has been disappointing, only 30,000 recruits being obtained out of 34,000 required for the Army Reserve and 94,000 obtained out of 1,40,000 required for Territorial Army.

In Mauritius, Modi calls for 'free, open, safe' Indian Ocean

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the Mauritius National Day celebrations in Port Louis on Wednesday with Mauritius PM Navin Ramgoolam and President Dharambeer Gokhool. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said a "free, open, secure, and safe" Indian Ocean was a common priority for both India and Mauritius.

Mr. Modi, who is on a two-day state visit to the island nation, said this while delivering a speech alongside Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

He conveyed India's unambiguous support for the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos archipelago. The U.K. and Mauritius had reached an agreement over the archipelago last year. "In the next five years, 500 civil servants of Mauritius will be trained in India. We have also agreed to settle trade matters through local currencies. The Prime Minister and I agree that defence cooperation and maritime security are important parts of the strategic partnership between the two sides. Free, open, secure and safe Indian Ocean is our common priority," Mr. Modi said after the conclusion of bilateral talks.

The two sides also sealed eight memorandums of understanding, including one that will allow settlement of trade issues through local currencies.

Mr. Modi assured that India would extend all possible help in the establishment of the Police Academy and the National Maritime Information Sharing Centre in Mauritius.

He said India would advance the position of Mauritius over the Chagos dispute through Colombo Security Conclave, Indian Ocean Rim Association, and the Indian Ocean Conference. "We are committed to ensure protection of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Mauritius," he said.

Central officials hold meeting with Kuki-Zo, Meitei groups

Movement of commercial vehicles on two highways in Manipur blocked by Kuki-Zo protesters for the fourth consecutive day; funeral of protester killed in March 8 violence will be conducted today

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Tension in the air: A torched vehicle in the aftermath of the March 8 violence in Kangpokpi. VIJAITA SINGH

Home Ministry officials separately met Kuki-Zo and Meitei civil society groups in Manipur on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively, amid blockade of National highways by the Kuki-Zo groups since the March 8 violence in the strife-torn State.

A.K. Mishra, Adviser, Northeast, Home Minstry, and other officials met members of the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), Zomi Council and representatives from the Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU), Kangpokpi, Chandel, Pherzawl and Jiribam in the hill district of Churachandpur and informed them about a 13-point action plan by the Union government to restore normalcy in Manipur.

The meeting lasted three hours but did not lead to any "concrete decision," one of the members who attended the meeting said, adding that the meeting was adjourned for further discussion in future. "The topics discussed were mainly the March 8 violence in Kangpokpi which led to the death of one local person. District-specific issues and the tribal bodies' stand against free movement of all vehicles was discussed with the Ministry delegation. The leaders stood firm on their stand and so did officials, and no conclusion could be arrived at," said a Kuki-Zo member.

The movement of commercial vehicles on National Highways no. 2 and 37 was blocked by Kuki-Zo protesters for the fourth consecutive day.

Last rites

The last rites of Lalgouthang Singsit, the protester who was killed during the March 8 violence, will be conducted on Thursday, the member said.

There was no announcement by the Kuki-Zo groups to open the highways for commercial goods vehicles.

Mr. Mishra met a joint delegation of Meitei civil society groups, namely the Federation of Civil Society (FOCS), All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation (AMUCO), Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) in Imphal on Wednesday informing them too about the road map prepared by the Centre.

While a total shutdown has been observed in Kangpokpi, the epicentre of March 8 violence, other Kuki-Zo dominated areas have also partially shutdown as a mark of protest. Meitei-dominated valley areas however functioned smoothly.

Care needed in govt. recruitment to keep public faith alive: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Candidates of Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) stage a protest. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court has highlighted the need for the government to follow "absolute scrupulousness" in the public recruitment process. The court said this is mandatory as there are more aspirants for government jobs than there are jobs at any point of time. Hence, there is no room for the slightest error or foul play.

"In India, the reality is that there are far more takers of government jobs than there are jobs available. Be that as it may, each job which has a clearly delineated entry process – with prescribed examination and/or interview process, has only to be filled in accordance thereof. Absolute scrupulousness in the process being followed instills and further rejuvenates the faith of the public," a Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Karol observed in a recent judgment.

Any chink in government recruitment processes would amount to a failure in public duty, the Division Bench also comprising Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah indicated.

'Truly deserving'

Justice Karol, who authored the judgment, found it was the obligation of the government to ensure that only "those who are truly deserving of the positions are the ones who have been installed to such positions".

The judgment was based on appeals filed by the State of Rajasthan to quash the bail granted by the State High Court to two accused persons booked under several provisions of the Indian Penal Code, including cheating, and sections of the Rajasthan Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2022.

U.S. tariffs on steel, aluminium kick in

Reuters
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's increased tariffs on all U.S. steel and aluminium imports took effect on Wednesday, stepping up a campaign to reorder global trade norms in favour of the U.S. that drew swift retaliation from Europe.

Mr. Trump's action to bulk up protections for American steel and aluminium producers restores effective global tariffs of 25% on all imports of the metals, and extends the duties to hundreds of downstream products made from metals, from nuts and bolts to bulldozer blades and soda cans.

Close U.S. allies Canada, Britain and Australia criticised the blanket tariffs, with Canada mulling reciprocal actions, and British Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds saying "all options were on the table" to respond in the national interest.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said it was "entirely unjustified and against the spirit of our enduring friendship" but ruled out tit-for-tat duties.

The countries most affected by the tariffs are Canada, the biggest foreign supplier of steel and aluminium to the U.S., Brazil, Mexico and South Korea, which all have enjoyed some level of exemptions or quotas.

The run-up to the tariff deadline came with some drama on Tuesday as Mr. Trump threatened Canada with doubling the duty to 50% on its steel and aluminium exports to the U.S. But Mr. Trump backed off those plans after Ontario Premier Doug Ford agreed to suspend his province's decision to impose a 25% surcharge on electricity exports to the States of Minnesota, Michigan and New York until earlier U.S. tariffs were removed.

Parliamentary panel asks Centre to spend more on agriculture, rename Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The committee has demanded a crop insurance plan for small-holding farmers. AFP

The Standing Committee of Parliament on Agriculture, headed by former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, has recommended a change in the name of the Union Agriculture Ministry to reflect the importance of farm workers, too.

The panel, in its report tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, has also demanded a comprehensive crop insurance plan for small-holding farmers.

The committee said the name of the 'Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare' may be changed to 'Department of Agriculture, Farmers and Farm Labourers Welfare'. The renaming offers several potential benefits as it would acknowledge the significant role of farm labourers in the agricultural sector, the panel said.

'Frequently overlooked'

"Farm labourers, who often belong to marginalised communities, are a critical part of the agricultural workforce but are frequently overlooked in policy discussions and welfare schemes," the committee said, recommending the establishment of a 'National Commission for Minimum Living Wages for Farm Labourers' to address wage disparities and improve living standards.

The panel requested the Ministry to put in place required processes and mechanisms to monitor the usage of funds at regular intervals, and to address the issues that may hamper the entire spending of the allocated amounts.

The committee recommended minimum support price (MSP) for all organic crops, in addition to the MSP declared on the traditional crops. "However, the demand for MSP on organic produce should not undermine the broader MSP demand based on the Swaminathan formula," it said.

Popularise fortified grain scheme, says Standing Committee

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Even as civil society organisations are raising concerns over fortified rice, the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution headed by DMK MP Kanimozhi has recommended the Centre to ensure meticulous implementation of the scheme of distribution of fortified rice across the country, with particular emphasis on the States where rice is a staple food.

The panel hoped that such a step will contribute to eradicate malnutrition, improving the overall health and well-being of vulnerable populations.

A report of the panel, tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, observed that there are differences between the revised estimates and actual expenditure under the capital section of the Budget during 2024-25 and recommended the Ministry to adopt a more accurate and informed approach while preparing future budgetary estimates.

It asked the Union Food Ministry to manage and monitor funds allocated for food subsidy carefully to ensure reach of free foodgrains to the intended beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act with minimum wastage.

It expressed concern that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not achieved its physical as well as financial targets set for setting up of godowns for storage during the past three years.

It recommended the Centre to formulate an implementation strategy to achieve the targets.

Chhattisgarh approves new policy for Naxalites

Press Trust of India
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government on Wednesday approved a new rehabilitation policy for surrendered Naxalites which promises financial aid, education, employment and security to them, officials said.

The decision in this regard was taken during a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at his official residence here this evening, they said. The Cabinet decided to get complaints related to alleged corruption in Bharatmala road project probed by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the police. Under the new policy, facilities like financial assistance, rehabilitation, education, employment and security will be provided to the surrendered Maoists, he added.

EU strikes back with tariffs on U.S. imports

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Union (EU) on Wednesday announced that it will impose countertariffs on U.S. imports, retaliating against President Donald Trump's steel and aluminium tariffs, hours after they came into effect.

The countermeasures will amount to tariffs on €26 billion of U.S. goods entering the EU, equivalent to Mr. Trump's targeting of $28 billion of EU goods entering U.S. markets.

"We deeply regret this measure," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said, referring to Mr. Trump's move to impose 25% tariffs on steel, aluminium, and products based on these from the EU and other jurisdictions.

Impact on 5% goods

The U.S. tariffs will impact 5% of all EU goods exports to the U.S., the EU said in a statement.

The first Trump administration had initially applied these tariffs in 2018. They are referred to as "Section 232" tariffs, named after a provision under U.S. trade law permitting tariffs for reasons of "national security".

The EU response would consist of allowing current suspensions of countermeasures to tariffs imposed during Mr. Trump's first term to expire at the end of the month, resulting in a return to higher tariffs from April 1.

The EU would then consider targeting another approximately €18 billion of U.S. imports to reflect the fact that the current U.S. tariffs impact a broader range and higher value of EU exports to the U.S. This second stage would be fully in place by April 13.

"In the meantime, we remain fully open to negotiations," Ms. Von der Leyen said.

Withdraw ban on Mirwaiz, Ansari parties: J&K leaders

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday called upon the Centre to reconsider the ban on Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's Awami Action Committee and Masroor Ansari's J&K Ittehadul Muslimeen. However, the BJP has welcomed the move.

The Peoples Democratic Party raised the issue in the J&K Assembly, stating that the ban amounted to "stifling political dissent".

National Conference legislators also urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to reconsider the ban.

Congress MLA Irfan Hafeez Lone termed the ban "a bid to divert attention" of people from questioning the Centre on its statement that peace has returned to J&K after the removal of special status in 2019.

Immigration and Foreigners Bill not connected to grant of citizenship, says official

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Move to ensure better compliance of foreigners with the immigration laws

A day after the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 was introduced in Parliament, a government official clarified that the legislation is not connected with any matters related to grant of citizenship.

The official said the Bill was a comprehensive legislation to regulate all matters relating to foreigners and immigration that are currently administered through four Acts – the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. The four Acts are proposed to be repealed.

The official said the Bill retained several provisions in the four Acts, and it also had certain new provisions to meet the present-day requirements. This Bill was in line with the Government of India's policy of simplification of laws, ease of doing business and minimising compliance burden.

"Key provisions in the Bill include mandatory requirement of valid travel documents for entry into, stay in and exit from India, constitution of a Bureau of Immigration, power for deportation of illegal foreigners from India, mandatory reporting of information about foreigners by hotels, universities and educational institutions and hospitals, nursing homes etc. to enable tracking of overstaying foreigners, obligation of carriers to share information on passengers as per international practices, compounding of certain offences to enable ease of compliance burden," the official said.

The simplified language in the Bill was likely to help in smooth administration of the provisions and ensure better compliance of foreigners with the immigration laws. "It will provide adequate legal backing to immigration functions, its agencies and functionaries, help in tackling the problem of illegal migration into India and facilitate tracking of movement of overstaying foreigners in India. It will also help in reducing the compliance burden," the official said.

Eight youth reported missing from J&K, say MLAs in Assembly

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU/SRINAGAR

A National Conference legislator on Wednesday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly about the latest incident of a youth going missing in the Union Territory (UT), taking the number of untraced youth to eight this year, even as five other missing persons were found dead.

"A 17-year-old boy, Yawar Rashid, son of Mohammad Rashid, a resident of Mandi, Poonch, went missing in Jammu after appearing for an examination. The security agencies need to step up their efforts to trace him," NC MLA Ajaz Jan said.

The NC legislator's claim came a day after two families in Kathua claimed that two teenagers were missing from the Rajbagh and Marheen areas. They were identified as Deenu and Rehmat Ali.

Over the past two months, five other missing persons had been found dead in two separate incidents in Kathua. Multiple agencies are investigating these deaths.

However, the J&K Police has not yet issued any statement on the cause or the circumstances of the deaths of these five victims.

All five were found dead in the far-off and upper reaches of Kathua after being reported missing by their families, at a time when local residents reported militant movements in the upper reaches of Kathua. Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan met senior officers of the central armed forces in Kathua on Sunday to discuss these recent deaths.

Vance, wife likely to visit India this month: report

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance is likely to travel to India later this month, according to a media report.

"Mr. Vance will travel to India later this month alongside Second Lady Usha Vance," a report in *Politico* said, citing three sources familiar with the plans. "It marks Mr. Vance's second foreign trip as Vice-President after making his world stage debut in France and Germany last month," the report said.

Ms. Vance's parents, Krish Chilukuri and Lakshmi Chilukuri, emigrated from India to the U.S. in the late 1970s.

First trip

For Ms. Vance, the visit will be the first time she is visiting her ancestral country as Second Lady.

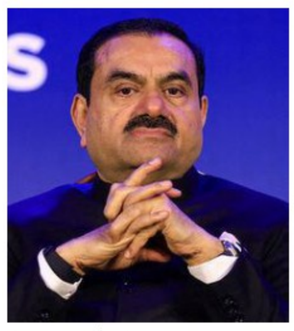
The couple met while attending Yale Law School. She is a litigator and has also clerked for Chief Justice John G. Roberts of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Brett Kavanaugh, then of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Centre asks Gujarat court to serve U.S. summons on Adani

Request for service of summons received from Central Authority USA under Hague Convention; case against industrialist for alleged bribery

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Union Law and Justice Ministry in February forwarded a summons from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to a sessions court in Ahmedabad for it to be served on industrialist Gautam Adani at his address in the city, the Union government confirmed to *The Hindu*.


Gautam Adani

"Under consideration is a request for service of summons received from the Central Authority USA, under the Hague Convention for Service of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil and Commercial Matters, 1965," the government said in an internal note provided to *The Hindu*. "The documents have been checked and found to be in consonance with the Hague Convention. We may, if approved, forward the documents to the District & Sessions Court, Ahmedabad, Gujarat for effecting service upon the respondent."

The letter to the sessions court is dated February 25. The Hague Convention allows a signatory country to directly request an agency in another country for assistance in serving legal papers for cases filed abroad.

In conjunction with federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York, the SEC sued Mr. Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani, in their capacities as executives of Adani Green Ltd, for allegedly concealing from American investors "the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to Indian government officials to secure their commitment to purchase energy at above-market rates that would benefit Adani green and Azure Power", a solar energy plant operator. The case is ongoing at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

While the lawsuit led to considerable uncertainty for the Adani Group, the firm is reportedly acting on hope that the new administration in the U.S. under President Donald Trump – which has paused all enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, 1977 – would lead to less movement in the legal matters against Mr. Adani. The *Financial Times* reported recently that the Adani Group has resumed scouting for business opportunities in the U.S.

Cong., DMK MPs walk out of LS over nod to project near Pakistan border

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam members walked out of the Lok Sabha on Wednesday to express their dissatisfaction with the reply given by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on reported clearance granted to a renewable energy project near the India-Pakistan border.

Asking a supplementary question during Question Hour, Congress leader Manish Tewari said national security and energy security had to go hand in hand. Though he did not name any particular group, his question was in connection with a news report in *The Guardian* last month that the government had changed security regulations on the India-Pakistan border in Gujarat to allow the Adani Group to set up a renewable energy park.

Mr. Tewari said the mixed renewable energy project would run up to a kilometre of the International Border, and noted that as per security protocol, any big infrastructure project should be at least 10 km from the border. He asked whether any relaxation had been granted to the proposed project.

Seeking answers: Opposition MPs walking out from the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

Mr. Joshi, the Minister for New and Renewable Energy, said all approvals and licences to any proposal are granted after obtaining clearances from the Centre, the State, and relevant agencies.

Upset with the reply, the Congress members trooped into the Well of the House and started raising slogans on national security. When Speaker Om Birla refused to take note of their protest, the Congress and DMK members staged a walkout.

Separately, the Congress raked up alleged links of the Adani Group with some shell companies in Mauritius. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a state visit to the island nation.

Shell companies

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on the social media platform X, targeted the government for "failing" to investigate charges of money laundering. He said Mauritius was an important financial centre and a long-time ally of India. "However, the relationship was tarnished by credible allegations that shell companies in Mauritius were used by Adani and his associates to engage in large-scale money-laundering, round-tripping, and tax evasion," he said.

Mr. Ramesh said a Supreme Court-monitored SEBI investigation that was supposed to take two months has gone on for two years "in part because of its failure to obtain information from foreign jurisdictions involved in the Adani MegaScam".

"Rather than encourage his counterparts to share the information needed to prosecute the financial skulduggery of his close friends, we fear that he will continue to protect them via acts of omission and commission," Mr. Ramesh alleged.

He also alleged that "this wholesale capture" of the Indian economy and its leading institutions "explains why the biggest corruption scam in Indian history has yet to achieve closure".

"It explains how and why election tampering has occurred in Maharashtra and elsewhere. The answer can only be a full-scale investigation by a JPC," the Congress leader said.

Lok Sabha passes Bill to boost investments in oil and gas sector

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It aims to resolve grievances of global firms interested in investing by ensuring stability in operation

A Bill that seeks to amend the existing law governing exploration and production of oil and gas as well as delink petroleum operations from mining operations was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, is aimed at boosting investment in the sector. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in December.

Replying to the debate before the passage of the Bill, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India was the only country where in the reference period of the past three years, the prices of petrol and diesel had actually come down. This had been possible because "the Prime Minister reduced the central excise (duty) on two occasions."

Mr. Puri said that Congress-ruled States have increased VAT (value-added tax) on petrol and diesel.

"The oil Bill aims to resolve one of the biggest grievances of global oil companies interested in investing in India by providing stability in operation, both in terms of tenure of the lease and the condition. The Bill also does not alter the rights of the States, which will continue to give petroleum leases and receive royalties as before. The Bill also does not alter the existing level-playing field and offers no preference to either the private or the public sector," the Minister said.

Among others, the Bill aims to decriminalise some of the provisions of the original Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, by introducing "penalties, adjudication by an adjudicating authority and appeal as against the order of adjudicating authority".

Lacks vision, says Cong.

Earlier, Congress MP Manish Tewari said the draft Bill lacked vision and a road map.

Referring to oil imports, Mr. Tewari said that India was not "future ready".

"What is required is a road map to make India energy sufficient, which unfortunately is completely missing. What is the government planning to do to encourage independent oil explorers? Is there anything in the Bill that incentivises them," he asked.

In Rajya Sabha, Trinamool calls for short discussion on duplicate EPICs next week

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Wednesday paused its protest in the Rajya Sabha on the issue of duplication of elector photo identity cards (EPIC) and the delimitation exercise for a day. The Trinamool Congress called for a short discussion on the voter ID issue next week.

In a sign of thaw between the Union government and the Opposition in the Upper House, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Manoj Kumar Jha presented his concerns on the voter id issue during the Zero Hour, when members can raise issues of national importance.

In a democracy, it is not enough to have regular elections, it is equally essential that the body conducting these elections appears to be fair, Mr. Jha said. "This [Parliament] is the temple of democracy and democracy thrives because of elections. If the procedure and process of election is compromised and there is a smell of fraud therein, then nothing will be left," Mr. Jha said.

> If the procedure and process of election is compromised and there is a smell of fraud therein then nothing will be left
>
> **MANOJ KUMAR JHA**
> RJD MP

'Matter of concern'

He said that each EPIC issued by the Election Commission carried a 10-digit number. The first three digits of the number signified the Assembly constituency. It is a matter of concern that voters from different States have the same number, he said.

Mr. Jha demanded that the EC determine the extent of the problem, investigate from where the fraud started, and take urgent corrective measures. He said the EC should issue a separate list detailing voter deletions, new additions and modifications. "Whenever apprehensions are aired, they have to be addressed... Serious questions have to be answered and responded to in a serious manner," Mr. Jha said.

Earlier, Congress leader Pramod Tiwari and Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien spoke on the issue.

"There are at least seven or eight Opposition parties, why don't you take up a discussion under Rule 176 (short duration) discussion. We are not here to disrupt the House," Mr. O'Brien said.

In RS, Opposition blames 'privatisation' for train accidents

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

During a discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday on the working of the Railway Ministry, BJP members said that infrastructure and passenger facilities had improved manifold under the Narendra Modi government.

The Opposition hit out at the government citing frequent rail accidents and complaints about poor quality of services offered on trains and blamed privatisation.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will reply to the debate on Monday.

Initiating the debate, BJP MP Samik Bhattacharya said the Railway Budget was an instrument for political calculations before 2014.

He said that the Union government had made significant strides in high-speed rail corridors, taking a step towards an efficient transportation.

"Government is now planning high-speed corridors in north, east, and south India after completing the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed corridor," he said.

DMK MP N.R. Elango alleged that contractualisation and outsourcing reduced about two million jobs in the Railways. He added that in the past three or four years, the country lost valuable lives of 400 passengers due to train accidents, compared with zero deaths between 2018 and 2021. "Why is this happening? This is happening because of privatisation of employees," he said.

Safety system

RJD leader Sanjay Yadav alleged that the safety system introduced in 2016, Kavach, had not been fully implemented and questioned the delay in implementation. "Railways is the lifeline of India but this government has put it in a lifeless condition," he said.

Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain said the discontinued concessions for senior citizens, ex-servicemen and journalists should be restarted.

Great Nicobar project: govt. offers no reply in Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday tried unsuccessfully to corner the Centre into answering questions about the environmental and forest clearances granted to the ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project.

Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale kicked off Question Hour by asking the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs about the clearances granted for the project. In response, Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram cited cases about the project currently pending in the Calcutta High Court to say that the matter is *sub-judice*. "As such, no comments are offered," he said.

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh took issue with the government "declining" to answer. He pointed to a ruling by the Rajya Sabha Chairman in 2023, where it was established that the House is entitled to discuss anything other than the conduct of judges.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT **e- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders are invited for supply of the items **(1) Procurement of 40,000 Packets of Sabena Powder (2) Procurement of 3,90,000 Nos., of Butter Milk Packets (180 ML each) to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams.** For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555, FAX No: 0877-2264554.**

TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.365), Date:12-03-2025 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in, Mobile No. 96461-22067

Short Term E-Tender Enq. No.607/P-1/EMPW-12959 dated 11.03.25 Dy. Chief Engineer / Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2025_POWER_136398_1 for Routine cleaning of Ghanauli syphon drain, drains in plant area along with Cutting and clearance of wild Growth at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 11.03.25/ 05:00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

RTP - 31/25 76155/12/4006/2023/42510

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE , BHUBANESWAR.
Mail i.d. : seccbbsr@gmail.com

E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.20 of 2024-25

No.1210 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 7th March-2025

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for four number of Annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan of roads to be received in online bidding, double cover system as detailed in: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **5.00 P.M. of 17.03.2025 to 5.00 P.M of 27.03.2025.** The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at **11.00 AM of 28.03.2025** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/- Er. M.K.Mahananda
Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

B-1070 : OIPR-34156/11/0023/2425

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई–निविदा सूचना सं./ e- Tender Notice No: CMG/C/CON/248742 तिथि/ Date. 11.03.2025

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "EPC विधादू III (पैकेज–6) पर SSLV प्रमोचन परिसर (SLC), तिरुचेंदूर एवं सतनकुलम तालुक, ट्यूटिकोरिन, तमिलनाडु में निम्नलिखित कार्यों के साथ–साथ संबद्ध सिविल, जन स्वास्थ्य, विद्युतीय तथा यांत्रिक कार्यों सहित सहायक सेवाओं / सुविधाओं का निर्माणः (i) जल उपचार संयंत्र तथा 500 Cum स्वदेशी जल जीएलआर, (ii) बाह्य जल आपूर्ति प्रणाली, (iii) 400 Cum कच्चा जल संग्रहण जीएलआर सह पंप हाउस एवं पंप्स तथा पंपिंग साधन, (iv) बाह्य अग्निशमन के लिए 400 Cum जीएलआर तथा पंप हाउस" (Rs. 827.00 लाख) के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 02/04/2025 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO देखें।

On behalf of President of India, online EPC tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Construction of Ancillary services/ facilities with allied Civil, PH, Electrical & Mechanical works, including: (i) Water treatment plant and 500 Cum domestic water GLR, (ii) External water supply system, (iii) 400 Cum raw water collection GLR cum pump house and pumps & pumping mains, (iv) 400 Cum GLR and Pump house for External Firefighting at SSLV Launch complex (SLC), Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluks, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu on EPC Mode – III (Package-6)" (Rs. 827.00 Lakhs);** Tender documents can be downloaded up to **02/04/2025, 14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB, invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore-560009

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount
IFT No. BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/13240/2024-25		Date: 12-03-2025
1	Tender for the work of Providing & laying of 300mm dia MS water pipeline from BSNL office to 3rd main upto GLR in OMBR layout pertaining to OMBR S/stn., of AEEE-2-2 sub division. **(Call-6)**	Rs.215.02 lakhs / Rs.3,23,000 lakhs
2	Tender for the work of Replacement of 200, 150, 100mm dia CI water supply line by laying 200mm,150mm, 100mm dia DI water line in OMBR layout (Part-B) pertaining to OMBR S/s of AEE(E)-2-2 Sub Division. (Call-5)	Rs.158.63 lakhs / Rs.2,38,000 lakhs
3	Tender for the work of Replacement of 200, 150, 100mm dia CI water supply line by laying 200mm, 150mm, 100mm dia DI water line in Kasthurinagara (Part-A) pertaining to OMBR S/s of AEE(E)-2-2 Sub Division. (Call-5)	Rs.158.63 lakhs / Rs. 2,38,000 Lakhs
4	Tender for the work of Replacement of 200, 150, 100mm dia CI water supply line by laying 200mm, 150mm, 100mm dia DI water line in Kasthurinagara (Part-B) pertaining to OMBR S/s of AEE(E)-2-2 Sub Division. (Call-5)	Rs.158.63 lakhs / Rs. 2,38,000 Lakhs

The last date for submission of completed tender document is on 27.03.2025 upto 16.00 hrs. and the bids will be opened on 28.03.2025 after 16.00 hrs. Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/5606/AKAR/2024-25

INBRIEF

Defence Ministry, BEL sign ₹2,906-crore radar contract

The Defence Ministry on Wednesday signed a ₹2,906-crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad for the procurement of the low-level transportable radar Ashwini. Ashwini is an active electronically scanned phased array radar based on state-of-the-art solid state technology, the Ministry said. "The radar is capable of tracking aerial targets from high-speed fighter aircraft to slow moving targets such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and helicopters. Its acquisition will significantly enhance operational preparedness of Indian Air Force," the Ministry said. The contract was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

Video of dog eating human embryo sparks panic

The video footage of a stray dog eating a human embryo at the government women's hospital at Lalsot in Rajasthan's Dausa district created panic in the town, after which the district administration ordered a probe. Initial reports suggested that it was a case of abortion and "unwanted delivery" by a widowed woman. The video recording, which went viral on social media on Tuesday, showed a dog tearing apart a foetus and eating it, with the onlookers making no attempt to free the embryo from the mouth of the canine. The police swung into action and rushed a team to the hospital, but it could not find any traces of the embryo. The dog could also not be found at the scene.

Soldier suffers injuries in firing at LoC in Jammu

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

A soldier was injured in firing from across the border in Nowshera district of Jammu on Wednesday.

Officials said the soldier, posted at a forward post close to the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kalsiyan area of the Nowshera sector, was hit by a bullet.

Later, the injured soldier was evacuated to the military hospital in Udhampur for advanced treatment. An investigation is under way to ascertain the cause of the firing, officials said.

Preliminary reports suggested that the firing was preceded by an explosion on the LoC around 6 a.m. followed by three rounds of gunfire. However, there was no immediate report of any casualty in the blast.

The Jammu region witnessed multiple cases of cross-border firing this year.

Official figures suggested that six skirmishes were reported on the LoC in Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch districts in January and February.

A Captain and a soldier were killed in a blast by an improvised explosive device, and at least two other soldiers were hit by snipers.

'Design stage of small modular nuclear reactor completed'

It will take 60 to 72 months for the reactor to be constructed after the project is sanctioned, Union Minister Jitendra Singh tells Lok Sabha

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

> The BSMR was based on the 'globally proven' pressurised water reactor technology. It was equipped with passive safety features
>
> **JITENDRA SINGH**
> Union Minister

The "concept design" stage of India's proposed Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR) has been completed and is in the process of being approved. Once the project is sanctioned, it will take 60 to 72 months for the reactor to be constructed, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said in the Lok Sabha in response to a query on Wednesday.

The BSMRs are modified versions of India's existing Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PWHR) and will have a capacity of 200 MW each. They will be fuelled by "slightly enriched uranium" and are being jointly designed and developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL).

Manufacturing and delivery of equipment and components will be carried out through various indigenous nuclear vendors developed by the Department Of Atomic Energy (DAE). "Critical items", such as low alloy steel forgings required for manufacturing the reactor pressure vessel and reactivity control drive mechanisms, will be procured by domestic private vendors. These BSMRs will be used by energy intensive industries such as steel, aluminium, and cement for captive power and can be set up by repurposing thermal power plants that are to be decommissioned. They can also provide electricity in remote places.

The BSMR was based on the "globally proven" pressurised water reactor technology. It was equipped with passive safety features as well as several engineered safety systems to ensure nuclear safety during accidents. Systems were planned to handle spent fuel and its storage in-situ, Mr. Singh's written response noted.

In her Budget speech in July 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government would be partnering with the private sector for setting up Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs), research and development of BSMRs, and research & development of newer technologies for nuclear energy.

The government has committed ₹20,000 crore for setting up the first of these by 2033.

India expects to have 100 GW (gigawatt) of nuclear power installed by 2047.

Indian Railways to dig ponds under govt.'s Mission Amrit Sarovar

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The mission was launched with goal of constructing 75 ponds in each district of the country.

The Indian Railways will dig ponds as part of the Union government's Mission Amrit Sarovar that aims to address the critical issue of water scarcity in the country.

Amrit Sarovar was launched in April 2022 with the ambitious goal of constructing or rejuvenating 75 ponds in each district of the country. The project made significant progress and as of October 2024, more than 68,000 ponds have been completed, rejuvenating surface and groundwater availability in various regions. These ponds have not only addressed immediate water needs but also established sustainable water resources.

Phase 2 of the mission was launched with a renewed focus on ensuring water availability, with community participation (*Jan Bhagidaari*) at its core. It aims to strengthen climate resilience, foster ecological balance, and deliver lasting benefits for future generations.

As part of these initiatives, the government roped in the Railways for desilting, excavating identified waterbodies or constructing new ones at suitable sites in the vicinity of railway lines.

Railway authorities were told to request the respective district authorities to identify possible sites for the creation of new waterbodies near railway worksites.

The excavated material would be used in railway embankments, wherever the quality of the soil is found suitable for rail construction.

The Railways would work in close coordination with the Rural Development Ministry.

The Union government has sent letters to the Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories on the role of the Railways in Mission Amrit Sarovar, sources said, adding that a substantial number of ponds would be rejuvenated or constructed by August 15.

APAAR ID system voluntary, but activists and parents raise concern over growing mandates

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Parents and activists worry that it could become near-impossible to opt out of the Education Ministry's Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID for school students, though enrolment is supposed to be voluntary.

The APAAR ID ties into DigiLocker and the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), which the government hopes to use to standardise students' school transcripts in a uniform way as a "single source of truth".

However, the APAAR ID system has drawn scrutiny on data privacy and necessity grounds. While the Education Ministry has said in a document on its website that getting an APAAR ID is not mandatory, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) told schools in a circular in January that it expects them "to ensure 100% saturation of APAAR IDs for all students", a directive that many schools have taken as a mandate.

APAAR IDs are linked to Aadhaar, and some parents who are willing to enrol their children have reported issues linking the students' Aadhaar with APAAR, due to spelling mismatch between their name in school records and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) database. Such parents must be referred to a Common Service Centre to update children's documents, the CBSE said in its January circular.

"The APAAR ID system presents significant risks, especially in the collection and handling of minors' sensitive data, including

APAAR presents certain risks, especially in the collection of minors' sensitive data.

personal and academic information, without adequate legal safeguards or robust data protection measures," the Internet Freedom Foundation, a Delhi-based advocacy group, wrote in December. The Education Ministry has admitted that there is no law to mandate APAAR IDs for parents who do not want to enroll their children in the registry.

Another advocacy group, the Software Freedom Law Centre, India, has published a form that parents can use to inform schools that APAAR is not mandatory, to persuade school administrations that enrolment cannot be compelled. Sandeep Hegde, a Bengaluru-based parent, pushed back against APAAR at his child's school, and was able to get the school to back off from the request, at least for him.

But recent steps at the State level may make it harder for schools to listen to parents in these cases.

U.P. decision

In Uttar Pradesh, the Director-General of School Education indicated last week that it was using APAAR to find discrepancy in school enrolment records, and that it would hold officials responsible if major changes were found. In another case in Bahraich district, madrasas which did not enrol their students were warned that they would be de-recognised if they did not start APAAR enrolment.

Making such an ID mandatory in schools "directly contradicts the Supreme Court ruling in *K.S. Puttaswamy* v *Union of India* [2019 (1) SCC 1], which held that Aadhaar – an essential requirement for obtaining an APAAR ID – cannot be mandatory for access to basic education," advocate Apar Gupta, IFF's founder director said.

"Such coercive measures by the government – both at the Central and State level – puts immense pressure on parents as otherwise they may risk losing educational benefits or even accessing education completely."

Nitish Kumar disrespects women and makes 'lewd gestures', say RJD leaders

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal leaders walked out of the Bihar legislature on Wednesday, accusing Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of "disrespecting" the women of the State and making "lewd gestures", including at former Chief Minister Rabri Devi.

After a heated exchange between Mr. Kumar and Ms. Devi in the Legislative Council, Ms. Devi alleged: "Nitish Kumar consumes *bhaang* [hemp] and comes to the State Assembly. He disrespects women, including me and speaks trash about women. He asks if women in Bihar had clothes before 2005. I want to ask him, did women before 2005 roam around naked, were they going to markets naked?"

Rabri Devi

The RJD leaders sat on a dharna outside the Council and shouted slogans against Mr. Kumar.

Tejashwi slams Nitish

Later, Ms. Devi's younger son and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, came out of the House and reiterated the allegations. "I feel pity for Nitish Kumar. He is at such a stage when we pray to God to keep him healthy. Nitish Kumar's remarks in the House indicate that he is not normal. I think he should resign," he told presspersons.

"In the House, he makes lewd gestures. He gestured to Rabri Devi about her putting a *bindi* on her forehead asking, why are you putting on a *bindi*... I want to get that video from the House. Earlier too, he had made similar remarks on a Minister Sheila Mandal's *bindi*."

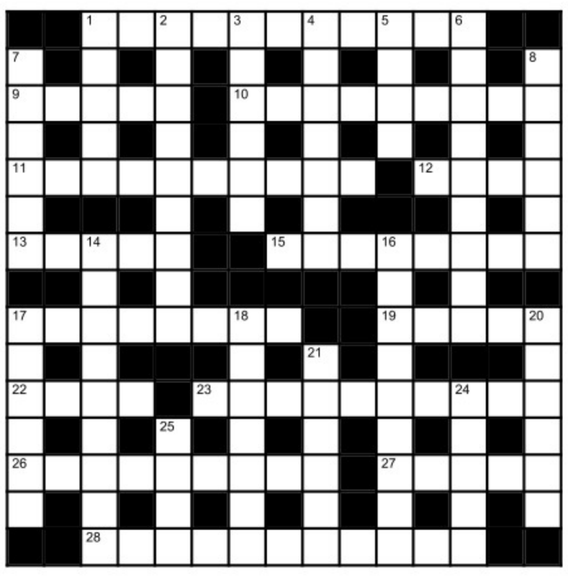
Mr. Yadav slammed Mr. Kumar's remarks about his father and former Chief Minister Lalu Prasad. "He says he made Lalu*ji*. There is no comparison between him and Lalu*ji*. The Chief Minister lost consecutive elections, while my father became an MP in 1977 itself," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14431

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Mad bird carries large avian timekeeper? (6,5)
9 Without notice, taxes income incorrectly and tests (5)
10 Perhaps, henchmen's sick kids collapse without energy (9)
11 No army tank was driven around by Roman general (4,6)
12 Perhaps, type of seaman 13 beheaded (4)
13 Constables' information chart (5)
15 Art shack produces frames for keeping headgear (8)
17 Film-maker wrongly crosses across middle of set (8)
19 Amount returned by in-charge for producing harmonious notes (5)
22 Concedes kitchen has class-room furniture (4)
23 Diva's public relation is initially with famous singer (5,5)
26 Some pasta cooked past eight (9)
27 Push the Spanish rascal first (5)
28 A gushing gal may produce Nitrous Oxide (8,3)

Down

1 Chinese atmosphere committee's head (5)
2 Throw fishing equipment containing a set of musical instruments (9)
3 Notes I composed at location (2-4)
4 Monarch endlessly goes around Asian port passage for soloist (7)
5 Ran leaving torn anoraks for trees (4)
6 Bribes and reverses taxi after boot at back end's searched initially (9)
7 Husband leaves protective headgear under front of parlour window fitting (6)
8 Flowers?! Master stroke, to a certain extent! (6)
14 Reserves towering place for selling paperbacks perhaps (9)
16 Removing problem on setter passing away (9)
17 Pervertedly cruel person roughly cast aside, in absence of ace? (6)
18 Elongate period of time (7)
20 Infant may lie here (6)
21 North Omani building gives protection for embryo (6)
24 Bearing primates' backs of necks (5)
25 Half of thousand for you in days of yore (4)

SUDOKU

	9				6			2
1				9	5	4	8	
	1	2				7		9
	4		8		9		3	
7		9				6	4	
	7	8	9	2				3
2			5				1	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	O	U	R	A	G	E		R	E	C	I	T	A	L
R		N		C		S		O		H		I		A
O	S	C	A	R		P	A	G	E	A	N	T	R	Y
W		L		E		I		U		R		A		M
D	R	O	P	S	C	O	N	E		L	I	N	D	A
Y		T				N				A				N
	C	H	O	P		A	N	G	S	T	R	O	M	
		E		N		G		E		A		D		
	A	D	H	E	R	E	N	T		N	O	D	E	
F				U				A				M		T
A	S	S	A	M		E	S	T	O	N	I	A	N	S
T		A		O		C		A		I		N		E
W	O	M	E	N	S	L	I	B		S	N	O	U	T
A		B		I		A		L		E		U		S
S	E	A	L	A	N	T		E	P	I	S	T	L	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	1	3	6	5	9	7	4
3	6	7	9	8	4	2	5	1
5	4	9	2	1	7	6	8	3
4	9	8	7	5	2	1	3	6
6	7	5	1	3	9	8	4	2
1	3	2	8	4	6	5	9	7
8	2	6	4	9	3	7	1	5
9	5	4	6	7	1	3	2	8
7	1	3	5	2	8	4	6	9

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FAITH

Sani Peyarchi's significance

Everyone on this earth is affected by good and bad events taking place in their lives. Whenever there are setbacks, it is human nature to seek help, either emotional empathy from friends, or divine deliverance, if one is a believer.

No one can take the highs and lows of life with equanimity due to the limitations of human nature, said Sengalipuram Damodara Dikshidhar.

At periodic intervals, devotees also undergo apprehension when the diktats of time herald a change, such as *Sani Peyarchi*, with direct impact on one. People tend to seek out their priests or astrologers when *Sani Peyarchi* (movement of Saturn from one house to another) is imminent. This transit will bring both good and bad vibes to all, which is why, our ancestors have recommended that everyone should undertake remedial measures as advised. The most efficacious way of facing *Sani Peyarchi* is to take part in pujas and homams conducted by priests well versed in the scriptures and various mantras.

Another recommendation is for individuals to follow simple rituals at home.

None of the measures can do away with the changes Saturn will bring, however, one will be in a better position to face the same.

Although Sani is said to bring about both good and bad times in a person's life he traverses through, a sense of impending doom assail devotees.

As per the almanac, and other astronomical calculations, Sani is set to move house (from the Tamil zodiac sign kumbha to meenam) on March 29 and impact certain zodiac signs.

INBRIEF

Montra Electric inaugurates e-SCV plant in Chennai

TIVOLT Electric Vehicles Private Ltd., the e-SCV division of Montra Electric has inaugurated its manufacturing plant for electric small commercial vehicles (e-SCV) at Ponneri, Chennai. The facility has an annual production capacity of 50,000 vehicles, catering to the small and light commercial vehicle (SCV/LCV) segments. Arun Murugappan, executive chairman, Tube Investments of India Ltd. said, "this plant marks a significant step forward in our journey."

TrucksUp unveils market place to buy/sell used trucks

Full Truck Load (FTL) aggregator TrucksUp has unveiled TrucksHub, a marketplace where used trucks can be bought, sold and exchanged. This platform is designed to bring transparency and trust to India's highly fragmented and unorganised used truck market, the firm said. Wahid Raza, business head, TrucksHub, said, "TrucksHub brings structure to the industry, ultimately benefiting both the stakeholders and the broader economy," he added.

MRF's Arun Mammen elected as new chairman of ATMA

Arun Mammen, vice-chairman and MD, MRF Ltd., has been elected as the new chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), the national industry body for the auto tyre sector in India. Hiroshi Yoshizane, MD, Bridgestone India, is the new vice-chairman of ATMA. Mr. Mammen said he would work toward policy enablers so as to make the industry more competitive and technologically superior to meet the needs of the developed countries.

After Bharti, Jio allies with Musk's SpaceX for Starlink net services

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

A day after Bharti Airtel signed a pact with American billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX to offer Starlink's high speed internet broadband services to customers in India, Reliance Industries' Jio Platforms Ltd (JPL) followed suit.

Jio platforms would offer Starlink serivces with the pact subject to SpaceX receiving authorisations to sell Starlink in India.

Jio would make available Starlink solutions through retail outlets as well as online storefronts.

Jio will not only offer Starlink equipment at its retail outlets but establish a mechanism to support customer services, Jio said.

"Starlink complements JioAirFiber and JioFiber by extending high speed Internet to the most challenging of locations in a quick and affordable manner," Jio added.

Jio and SpaceX are also evaluating other complementary areas of cooperation to leverage respective infrastructure to boost India's digital ecosystem.

"Ensuring every Indian, no matter where they live, has access to affordable and high-speed broadband remains Jio's top priority," said Mathew Oommen, Group CEO, Reliance Jio.

"We applaud Jio's commitment to advancing India's connectivity," said Gwynne Shotwell, president and chief operating officer, SpaceX.

Industrial output growth hastens to 8-month high of 5%

January's growth was led by an expansion in manufacturing activity which grew at 5.5% and mining and quarrying that expanded by 4.4%: however, consumer durables logged a slower 7.2%

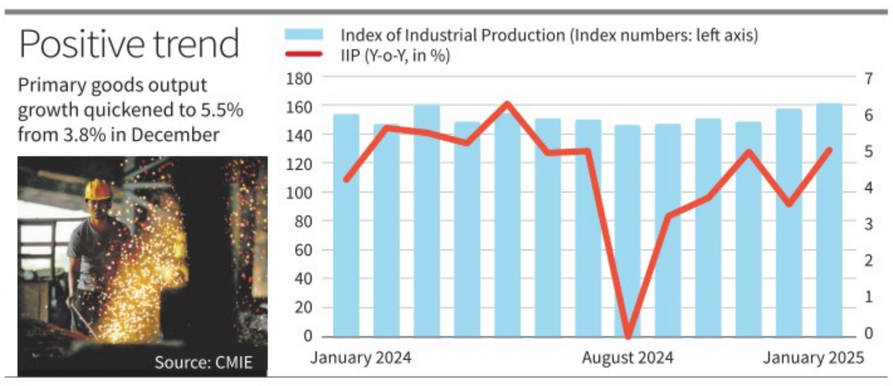
Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Industrial output growth quickened to an eight-month high of 5% in January on expansion in manufacturing and mining sectors, according to data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) released on Wednesday.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had come in at 3.55 in December.

January's growth was led by an expansion in manufacturing which rose 5.5% and mining and quarrying that expanded by 4.4% in reporting month. The sectors grew at a slower pace of 3.4% and 2.7% respectively in December.

The faster pace of growth in the two sectors compensated for the slowdown in the electricity sector that expanded at a slower pace of 2.4% against 6.2% in December.



Slowdown impact

Going by use-based classification, barring primary goods and consumer goods, most sectors experienced slowdown in output growth.

Primary goods output growth quickened to 5.5% in January from 3.8% a month ago. Consumer goods sector output increased at a pace of 2.6%, as against December reading, when output had shrunk 2%. Output in consumer durables sector expanded at the slowest pace in three months at 7.2% against 8.3% in December and 14.1% in November.

"IIP growth at 5% is impressive as it also involves manufacturing growing at 5.5%," wrote Madan Sabnavis chief economist, Bank of Baroda, in a note.

"For the full year, growth can be expected to be between 5-5.5% if these trends are maintained."

Feb. equity MF inflows plunge 27% on declining stock market returns

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Net inflows into equity mutual funds slid 27% in February to ₹29,300 crore amid four months of declining returns from the stock markets, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

This led to a slower 18% rise in Assets Under Management (AUM) of schemes to ₹64.5 lakh crore in the reporting month, the lowest in nine months.

The AUM were about ₹67.5 lakh crore in the previous month. The rate of growth in AUMs in February was also the slowest since October 2023.

The slowdown in AUM growth and inflows into equity mutual funds reflected on Systematic Investment Plans (SIP) contributions and registrations. Monthly SIP contribution reduced for the second consecutive month, coming in at about ₹26,000 crore, a decline of 1.5% from January.

This is also a faster decline than the previous month, when SIP contributions dipped just 0.2% from December inflows.

Total number of SIPs outstanding was 10.1 crore, sightly lower than 10.26 crore in January.

Fresh SIPs dipped to 44.6 lakh, the lowest yet in the fiscal year.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	74,030	-0.10
US Dollar	87.22	-0.01
Gold	88,850	0.07
Brent oil	70.87	1.40

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2241.80	-8.80
Adani Ports	1128.30	-6.70
Apollo Hosp	6143.75	8.95
Asian Paints	2251.30	-36.10
Axis Bank	1011.20	-14.45
Bajaj Auto	7515.05	15.10
Bajaj Finserv	1819.45	14.05
Bajaj Finance	8484.45	144.00
Bharat Elec	276.83	-0.35
Bharti Airtel	1642.85	-20.10
BPCL	266.32	1.74
Britannia Ind	4792.05	30.00
Cipla	1454.30	8.55
Coal India	380.70	1.65
Dr Reddys Lab	1105.15	-11.50
Eicher Motors	5017.45	31.90
Grasim Ind	2398.90	-14.65
HCL Tech	1540.60	-27.25
HDFC Bank	1711.15	25.65
HDFC Life	632.00	-4.95
Hero MotoCorp	3610.25	-40.40
Hindalco	689.85	-5.65
Hind Unilever	2192.90	-24.05
ICICI Bank	1243.95	-1.45
IndusInd Bank	684.70	28.75
Infosys	1590.85	-70.75
ITC	412.40	6.20
JSW Steel	1010.40	-8.25
Kotak Bank	1982.55	47.35
L&T	3193.65	-1.80
M&M	2653.30	7.70
Maruti Suzuki	11640.10	-6.85
NestleIndia	2195.50	-55.90
NTPC	330.15	-0.15
ONGC	224.40	-2.32
PowerGrid Corp	267.10	-0.20
Reliance Ind	1257.05	9.75
SBI Life	1409.00	-8.25
State Bank	723.05	-6.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	636.95	-1.30
Sun Pharma	1676.85	21.55
TataConsumerProduct	945.45	-14.40
Tata Motors	668.30	20.25
Tata Steel	150.30	-0.45
TCS	3506.20	-69.10
Tech Mahindra	1438.30	-40.90
Titan	3018.95	-27.45
Trent Ltd.	5015.35	19.90
UltraTech Cement	10520.40	81.15
Wipro	268.55	-9.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.01	87.33
Euro	94.94	95.30
British Pound	112.60	113.02
Japanese Yen (100)	58.55	58.77
Chinese Yuan	12.01	12.06
Swiss Franc	98.55	98.92
Singapore Dollar	65.25	65.50
Canadian Dollar	60.28	60.51
Malaysian Ringitt	19.64	19.73
Australian Dollar	54.70	54.91

Source:Indian Bank

THE HINDU

Against all odds, ascending without fear!

THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper
First Indian woman atop Everest
Miss Bachendri Pal
Ukatoo Dorjee
Sonam Palzor
Akali Dal
T. Nadu Govt. waives all duties on methanol
AND NOW...
EXIM
IS IN MADRAS

The Hindu celebrates the women who make history.

Inspired?
Scan the code to get a framed reprint of this front page from The Hindu—published on May 24, 1984 — from our archives.

https://newsth.live/framepage

6 Signs of Hormonal Imbalance in Women and What to Do About It

Ladies, feeling constantly exhausted, struggling with stubborn weight gain, or dealing with unpredictable mood swings? These could be signs of a hormonal imbalance. Hormones regulate everything from metabolism and fertility to mood and sleep. However, stress, poor diet, and inactivity are driving imbalances in many Indian women, increasing the risk of diabetes, hypertension, and even cancer. Here are six common signs and how to address them.

1. Irregular Periods

Sign of: Oestrogen or progesterone imbalance

- Oestrogen regulates periods, while progesterone preps the uterus for pregnancy. Low oestrogen can cause irregular cycles, hot flashes, and weak bones; excess oestrogen leads to heavy periods and weight gain. Low progesterone is linked to premenstrual syndrome and anxiety.
- Chronic irregular cycles raise the risk of PCOS, infertility, diabetes, and osteoporosis.
- Eat a protein-rich diet with healthy fats and fibre. If symptoms persist, consult a doctor.

2. Unexplained Weight Changes

Sign of: Insulin, thyroid, or cortisol imbalance

- Insulin resistance can cause weight gain and fatigue, while an underactive thyroid (hypothyroidism) slows metabolism, causing weight gain. High cortisol levels from chronic stress promote belly fat accumulation.
- Uncontrolled weight gain increases the risk of type 2 diabetes, fatty liver disease, and heart disease.
- Prioritise whole grains, proteins and vegetables. Exercise regularly and manage stress.

"Oestrogen protects the heart, which is why the risk of heart disease rises sharply after menopause when oestrogen levels drop."

Dr Tejal Lathia
Consultant Endocrinologist
Apollo Hospitals, Navi Mumbai

3. Persistent Fatigue

Sign of: Thyroid, cortisol, or progesterone imbalance

- Low thyroid hormone levels can cause fatigue and sluggishness. High cortisol disrupts sleep and leads to exhaustion. Low progesterone can also contribute to poor sleep quality.
- Chronic fatigue weakens immunity, and raises risk of heart disease and mental health disorders.
- Ensure restful sleep, reduce caffeine intake, and seek medical advice if fatigue persists.

4. Mood Swings and Anxiety

Sign of: Oestrogen, progesterone, serotonin, or cortisol imbalance

- Fluctuating oestrogen and progesterone levels impact mood, leading to irritability or anxiety. Low serotonin levels contribute to depression and poor digestion, while high cortisol levels fuels anxiety.
- Chronic anxiety triggers hypertension, digestive issues, and cognitive decline.
- Regular exercise boosts serotonin. Prioritise a diet rich in omega-3s, magnesium, and Vitamin B.

5. Insomnia

Sign of: Melatonin, cortisol, or progesterone imbalance

- Melatonin controls sleep cycles, and low levels can cause insomnia. High cortisol disrupts sleep patterns, while low progesterone can lead to restlessness.
- Poor sleep increases risk of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and mental health disorders.
- Follow a sleep routine and consider natural sleep aids like magnesium or chamomile tea.

6. Skin and Hair Issues

Sign of: Insulin, oestrogen, or thyroid imbalance

- Insulin resistance triggers acne, while oestrogen fluctuations cause skin dryness. Thyroid imbalances lead to hair thinning or brittle nails.
- Persistent skin and hair issues indicate underlying metabolic disorders.
- Eat a balanced diet rich in antioxidants. Consult a doctor if symptoms worsen.

Hormonal imbalances are more than just an inconvenience – they can affect long-term health. A balanced diet, regular exercise, quality sleep, and stress management play a crucial role in maintaining hormone levels. It is better to keep a tab on hormone levels through annual health checks as most imbalances can be easily managed with either medication or lifestyle changes.

Apollo ProHealth PRESENTS
Sincerely, Your Doctor
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HINDU

A preventive healthcare initiative by **Apollo ProHealth** and **The Hindu**

Have questions for our doctors?
WhatsApp us at 89392 83283
or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in

ROME

Pope Francis out of danger, but will remain in hospital: Vatican

AFP

Pope Francis participated in the Vatican's spiritual retreat remotely on Tuesday after doctors upgraded his prognosis, stating he is no longer in imminent danger of death as a result of the respiratory infection. However, he remains hospitalised for continued treatment and rehabilitation due to his complex health situation. AP

TBILISI

Georgian ex-president Saakashvili sentenced to 9 more years in jail

REUTERS

Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili was sentenced on Wednesday to nine more years in prison after being found guilty of embezzlement. He was already serving six years for abuse of power. Supporters called the verdict politically motivated, labelling the judge a "slave" of the current government. REUTERS

DAMASCUS

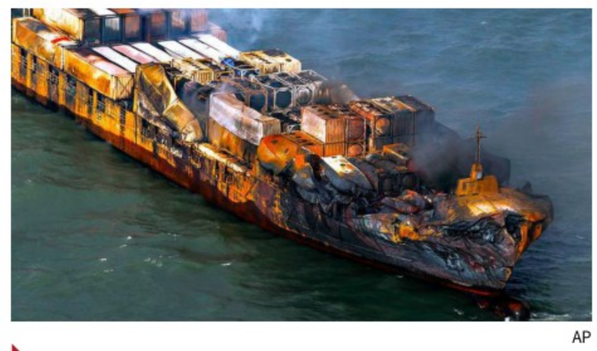
Syria's Jolani expected at Brussels donor summit in first Europe trip

AFP

Syria's interim President Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, also known as Ahmed al-Sharaa, is expected to attend a Brussels donor summit on March 17, his first European visit since becoming interim President after Bashar al-Assad's ouster in December. The EU-hosted event aims to support a peaceful Syrian transition. REUTERS

GRIMSBY

U.K. police arrest ship captain for manslaughter over North Sea crash



AP

British police on Tuesday arrested the captain of the Solong cargo ship on suspicion of manslaughter after it collided with the Stena Immaculate tanker, carrying jet fuel, in the North Sea, causing a massive fire and leaving one crew member missing, presumed dead. Thirty-six people were rescued in the Monday incident. AFP

Russia awaits U.S. briefing on Ukraine's peace bid

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Wednesday it was waiting for the United States to inform it about the details of a proposed ceasefire in Ukraine that Kyiv agreed to after talks in Saudi Arabia.

Asked if Moscow would agree to the proposed ceasefire, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said: "You are running ahead of yourselves... We have planned contacts with the Americans in the coming days, during which we count on [getting] the whole information."

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that negotiators were headed to Russia "right now" for ceasefire talks, without providing further details.

Russia claims big gains in Kursk; hits kill 8 in Ukraine

Moscow said it took back control of five villages occupied by Ukraine and that its forces entered Sudzha, the largest town that fell under Kyiv's control; Russian missiles hit Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia has made sweeping gains in its Kursk region in the past 24 hours, taking back control of five villages previously held by Ukrainian troops, the Russian military said.

Moscow's forces have also entered Sudzha, the largest town that fell under Kyiv's control, and were conducting "assault operations" there, the state TASS news agency reported.

Steady attack: A damaged hotel at the site of a Russian missile strike on Ukraine, in Kryvyi Rih on Wednesday. REUTERS

Russian Army units "liberated the settlements of Kazachya Loknya, 1st Knyazhy, 2nd Knyazhy, Zamostye and Mirny" in the Kursk region, all on the outskirts of Sudzha, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

"The information provided by our military shows that our troops are successfully advancing in the Kursk Region. The dynamic is good," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

"The Russians are clearly trying to put maximum pressure on our troops, and our military command is doing what it has to do," Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told a press conference in Kyiv.

A Russian ballistic missile strike overnight on the southern Ukrainian port city of Odesa killed four people and damaged a Barbados-flagged cargo ship. Separately, the Governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region said a 47-year-old woman was killed during a Russian missile attack on the central city of Kryvyi Rig. Prosecutors in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donetsk, which the Kremlin claims is part of Russia, said separately that three people had been killed in Russian strikes.

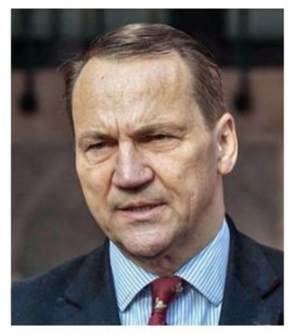
U.S. military aid deliveries resume to 'previous levels'

Agence France-Presse
WARSAW

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said on Wednesday that U.S. military aid deliveries to neighbouring Ukraine through Poland have resumed to previous levels following U.S.-Ukraine talks in Saudi Arabia.

Last week, Washington halted military assistance to war-torn Ukraine after a public clash in the White House between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

But in Jeddah talks on Tuesday, Ukraine endorsed an American proposal for a 30-day ceasefire with Moscow and agreed to immediate negotiations with Russia – which prompted Mr. Trump to lift the freeze.



Radoslaw Sikorski

"I confirm that arms deliveries via Jasionka (logistics hub) have returned to previous levels," Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski told reporters. He was speaking alongside his Ukrainian counterpart Andriy Sybiga who visited Warsaw on his way back to Ukraine from Jeddah.

The United States and the European Union are top arms suppliers to Ukraine.

Poland's Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said he had spoken to the commanding officer in Jasionka about what he called a "very good decision" to resume U.S. deliveries.

"We already have information today that the first shipments of equipment that were suspended last week and already delivered to Poland will be able to reach Ukraine," Mr. Kosiniak-Kamysz said.

Poland is a staunch ally of Ukraine and has advocated ramped up military aid to the country that since 2022 has been fighting Russian full-scale invasion. According to Warsaw, up to 95% of military aid to Kyiv passes through Poland, in particular through the Jasionka hub close to the country's eastern border.

At least 1,383 civilians killed as new wave of violence grips Syria

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

At least 1,383 civilians, the vast majority of them Alawites, were killed in a recent wave of violence that gripped Syria's Mediterranean coast, a war monitor said on Wednesday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the civilians were killed in "executions by security forces and allied groups" after the violence broke out last week in the coastal heartland of the Alawite minority, to which toppled President Bashar al-Assad belongs.

The Britain-based Observatory added that even as the violence subsided, the toll was still rising as bodies continued to be discovered, many on farmland or in their homes.

The violence began on Thursday when clashes broke out after gunmen loyal to Assad staged attacks on the new security forces. At least 231 security personnel were killed in the ensuing fighting.

Minerals agreement will give U.S. 'vested interest' in Ukraine security, says Rubio

Agence France-Presse
SHANNON

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Wednesday that an expected minerals deal would give the United States a "vested interest" in Ukraine's security, although he stopped short again of promising formal guarantees.

Marco Rubio

"I wouldn't couch it as a security guarantee, but certainly, if the United States has a vested economic interest that's generating revenue for our people as well as for the people of Ukraine, we'd have a vested interest in protecting it," Mr. Rubio told reporters.

"Certainly one of the things that provides for Ukraine's long-term prosperity and security is vibrant economic growth and development," he said on a refuelling stop in Ireland after a trip to Saudi Arabia.

A growing economy "gives them a tremendous amount of leverage and power and the ability to fund their own defences," he said.

Ukrainian officials agreed in talks with Mr. Rubio and President Donald Trump's national security adviser Mike Waltz in Jeddah on Tuesday to back a 30-day ceasefire if Russia follows suit.

The two sides also agreed to sign as soon as possible a minerals deal giving the United States access to Ukraine's natural wealth.

The deal went unsigned after a disastrous White House meeting on February 28 between Mr. Trump and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Trump has sharply shifted the US stance by negotiating with Russia and demanding concessions from Ukraine, stunning European allies.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has called for more involvement by European allies in diplomacy.

Opposition wins Greenland vote, as nationalists surge

Agence France-Presse
NUUK

The centre-right Opposition has won a surprise victory in legislative elections in Greenland, the Danish territory coveted by U.S. President Donald Trump, as support also surged for the nationalist Naleraq party seeking independence as soon as possible.

The Democratic party – which describes itself as "social liberal" – more than tripled its score from the 2021 election to win 29.9% of votes, official results showed. The nationalist Naleraq party, the most ardent pro-independence party, more than doubled its showing to 24.5%. As none of the parties won a majority of the 31 seats in Parliament, negotiations to form a coalition will be held in the coming days.

Never before has an election in Greenland garnered as much global interest, following Mr. Trump's recently stated ambitions to take control of the vast resource-rich territory.

Sport

Paris Saint-Germain bests Liverpool via penalties

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain held its nerve to beat Liverpool 4-1 on penalties and reach the Champions League quarterfinals on Tuesday after their tie finished one-apiece on aggregate, while Bayern Munich saw off Bayer Leverkusen to complete a 5-0 win over both legs.

Lamine Yamal and Raphinha fired Barcelona into the next round as the Catalans bested Benfica 3-1, and Inter Milan booked a last-eight meeting with Bayern by seeing off Feyenoord 2-1.

At Anfield, Ousmane Dembele netted the only goal of the night as PSG bounced back from Liverpool's late winner last week to force the tie to extra-time and penalties.

Super stop: PSG's Donnarumma leaps in the right direction to block Nunez's penalty. REUTERS

Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma produced two excellent saves in the penalty shoot-out to send the French champions into the last eight.

Donnarumma plunged first to his left to deny Darwin Nunez, before going low the other side to deny Curtis Jones, with his teammates dispatching all of their penalties.

PSG will play either Aston Villa or Club Brugge in the next stage. Harry Kane inspired Bayern to a 2-0 win at the home of German rival Leverkusen.

Already a goal to the good following the first leg, a Raphinha brace and a Yamal wonder-goal secured Barca a 4-1 aggregate win on Tuesday.

Hansi Flick's side will face Borussia Dortmund or Lille in the quarter-finals as it aims to win the competition for the first time since 2015.

Italian champion Inter also progressed through the last 16 with a 4-1 aggregate victory.

Strikes by Marcus Thuram and Hakan Calhanoglu, either side of a Feyenoord consolation scored by Jakub Moder, gave it a 2-1 win at the San Siro.

The results (aet denotes after extra time) (last 16, second leg): Barcelona 3 (Raphinha 11, 42, Yamal 27) bt Benfica 1 (Otamendi 13) (*Barca won 4-1 on aggregate*); Bayer Leverkusen 0 lost to Bayern Munich 2 (Kane 52, Davies 71) (*Bayern won 5-0 on aggregate*); Inter Milan 2 (Thuram 8, Calhanoglu 51-pen) bt Feyenoord 1 (Moder 42-pen) (*Inter won 4-1 on aggregate*); Liverpool 0 lost to PSG 1 (Dembele 12) (*aet 1-1 on aggregate; PSG won 4-1 on penalties*).

Anurag Thakur's name excluded

BFI POLLS

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Former Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur's name has not been included in the electoral college issued by Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh for the upcoming BFI elections.

The BFI, which the Indian Olympic Association replaced with an ad-hoc committee for not holding its elections by the due date of February 2, had decided to hold its polls on March 28 after the Delhi High Court stayed the IOA order. There was speculation that Thakur will run for the BFI president's post against the incumbent Ajay Singh, who is seeking a third term. This was after the Himachal Pradesh Boxing Association (HPBA) nominated the former minister as a voter for the elections. HPBA president Rajesh Bhandari was the other nominated member from the state.

Following the scrutiny of names, the electoral college notification, comprising 60 names, referred to Ajay Singh's letter on March 7 and the National Sports Code to explain that Thakur was ineligible as he was not an elected member of the HPBA. Apart from Thakur, the electoral college holds Larry Kharpran (Meghalaya), Rupak Debroy and Asish Kumar Saha (Tripura) ineligible. There is a question mark over Rohit Jain (who is a supporter of Thakur) and Neeraj Bhatt, both representing Delhi Amateur Boxing Association (DABA), as the electoral college notification says that their cases will be decided by the returning officer. As per the BFI constitution, "every member association will be represented by two member representatives authorised by the president or secretary of the association."

A majority of member state units had jointly written to the BFI chief, opposing his 'unilateral' March 7 order which "stands in clear violation of the NCS." Interestingly, BFI secretary Hemanta Kalita has sent another list of voters, including Thakur's name, to the returning officer.

Meanwhile, the Indian Amateur Boxing Federation, which functioned as the National federation earlier, has written to the Sports Ministry and the IOA to de-recognise the BFI as it is "not registered" under the Societies Registration Act.

TURNING POINT

Failure to win close matches hurt RCB badly, admits Smriti

PTI

"The first two matches in Bengaluru were the turning points. Sometimes you do a lot of things right and things don't go your way in the last two-three overs. We won last year by winning those moments. This year in Bengaluru, we couldn't make those moments ours," RCB skipper Smriti Mandhana after a disappointing season in the WPL.

IMPORANT ELEMENT

Just need Matthews to keep enjoying her cricket, says Jhulan

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Hayley Matthews is the only one to feature among both the top-10 run-getters as well as the highest wicket-takers in the third season of the WPL. MI bowling coach and team mentor Jhulan Goswami praised the all-rounder. "Hayley is a very important member. It is important that she stays in a good frame of mind and just enjoys her cricket".

BIDDING ADIEU

Mahmudullah calls time on his international career

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Veteran Bangladesh batter Mahmudullah announced his retirement from international cricket on Wednesday. The 39-year-old finished as the country's fourth-highest ODI run-getter with 5689 runs at an average of 36.46, including four centuries — all in ICC tournaments. He is Bangladesh's only batter to hit three ODI World Cup centuries.

RECOGNITION

Gill wins ICC Player-of-the-Month award for February

ANI

Shubman Gill was named ICC Men's Player-of-the-Month for February following his stellar performances, which includes his exploits in his team's title-winning Champions Trophy campaign. Gill beat Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Glenn Phillips. In his five ODIs over the course of the month, Gill compiled 406 runs, averaging 101.50.

Giants, MI face off for a shot at title

The Gujarat team can derive a lot of confidence from its show in the past fortnight; Harmanpreet and overseas core have been on fire for Mumbai

Breaking through: Gardner, centre, has succeeded in taking Giants into the playoffs for the first time.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

WPL

Vivek Krishnan
MUMBAI

On Monday night, Gujarat Giants came within striking distance of beating Mumbai Indians for the first time in three seasons of the Women's Premier League (WPL). As the two teams face off in the Eliminator at Brabourne Stadium on Thursday, another contest as riveting as the one at the start of this week will go a long way towards lighting up the business end of the third edition.

GG, of course, will be hoping for a different outcome. Harmanpreet Kaur's MI, on the other hand, will be more than satisfied if status quo is maintained.

At stake this time is a lot more than any of their six previous battles, with the winner setting up a date with Delhi Capitals in the final on Saturday.

Having qualified for the playoffs for the first time, Ashleigh Gardner's team is in uncharted territory. But it can derive a lot of confidence from how the players have shaped up over the past fortnight. Before the defeat to MI, it won three matches in a row, and convincingly at that.

The protagonists with the bat in GG's campaign have been Gardner, Beth Mooney and Harleen Deol. Bharti Fulmali's blistering 61 on Monday also adds renewed heft to the lower middle-order.

With the ball, two young Indians in Kashvee Gautam and Priya Mishra have grabbed the spotlight. While Kashvee is GG's leading wicket-taker with 10 scalps, Priya's breakthroughs have often come at vital junctures.

For the 2023 champion, besides Harmanpreet's runs at No. 4, it is the overseas core that has done the heavy lifting. Nat Sciver-Brunt is leading the scoring tally in the tournament with 416 runs in eight innings at a strike rate of 151.82. Leggie Amelia Kerr and off-spinner Hayley Matthews are the joint-highest wicket-takers this season with 14 victims each.

Many of these names are match-winners. But who will seize the moment in a knockout game and take their team over the line?

Will it be coronation for the Kings at last?

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

It's fair to say change has been the only constant for Punjab Kings.

The franchise tweaked its name, went through 16 captains and 10 coaches in 17 seasons, and almost always had a major overhaul come auction time. Success, however, has remained elusive.

The last time the Punjab outfit made the Indian Premier League playoffs, M.S. Dhoni was still an active Test cricketer and Lewis Hamilton had just one Drivers' Championship.

The onus is now on the Shreyas Iyer-Ricky Ponting alliance to take the Kings one step further than their runners-up finish in 2014. And there is scope for hope given that the duo had an impressive stint in Delhi Capitals colours.

The skipper's role, at No. 3, will be to add stability to a line-up that has power-hitters aplenty.

In Marcus Stoinis, Glenn Maxwell, Josh Inglis and Azmatullah Omarzai, the side has enough and more foreign willow-wielders; the same, however, cannot be said about the Indian part of the set-up. Hence, it is imperative that Prabhsimran Singh and Shashank Singh – PBKS' only two retentions ahead of the auction – have a good season.

IPL-18 COUNTDOWN

Punjab Kings

THE DUGOUT

Shreyas Iyer (Capt.), Nehal Wadhera, Vishnu Vinod, Josh Inglis, Harnoor Pannu, Pyla Avinash, Prabhsimran Singh, Shashank Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Glenn Maxwell, Harpreet Brar, Marco Jansen, Azmatullah Omarzai, Priyansh Arya, Aaron Hardie, Musheer Khan, Suryansh Shedge, Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal, V. Vyshak, Yash Thakur, Lockie Ferguson, Kuldeep Sen, Xavier Bartlett and Pravin Dubey.

THE DRIVING FORCE

SHREYAS IYER: His trophy cabinet has been filling up at a rapid clip since 2024 (Ranji Trophy, Indian Premier League, Irani Cup, Syed Mushtaq Ali and Champions Trophy). The man with the magic touch will be eager to put a bow on his golden run and end Kings' 17-year barren run.

OVERALL NUMBERS

M	W	L
246	112	134

FINALIST 2014

BY OPPONENT

	M	W	L
DC	33	17	16
RCB	33	17	16
KKR	33	12	21
MI	32	15	17
CSK	30	14	16
RR	28	12	16
SRH	23	7	16
GT	5	2	3
LSG	4	1	3

Punjab Kings' remaining matches were against Deccan Chargers (10), PWI (6), GL (4), RPS (4) and KTK (1)

PBKS' 2025 LEAGUE CAMPAIGN

March 25	vs GT	Ahmedabad	7.30 p.m.
April 1	vs LSG	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.
April 5	vs RR	New Chandigarh	7.30 p.m.
April 8	vs CSK	New Chandigarh	7.30 p.m.
April 12	vs SRH	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
April 15	vs KKR	New Chandigarh	7.30 p.m.
April 18	vs RCB	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
April 20	vs RCB	New Chandigarh	3.30 p.m.
April 26	vs KKR	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.
April 30	vs CSK	Chennai	7.30 p.m
May 4	vs LSG	Dharamshala	7.30 p.m.
May 8	vs DC	Dharamshala	7.30 p.m.
May 11	vs MI	Dharamshala	3.30 p.m.
May 16	vs RR	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.

The likes of Nehal Wadhera, Musheer Khan and Vishnu Vinod need to chip in when called upon.

The bowling arsenal looks promising and exciting. The pace-battery will be led by the ever-reliable Arshdeep Singh, who was brought back using the Right-to-Match (RTM) option at the auction. V. Vyshak, Yash Thakur, Kuldeep Sen and Lockie Ferguson provide depth and variety.

South Africa all-rounder Marco Jansen – who is expected to bat at No. 7 – will act as the bridge between the bowling and batting wings though his primary duty will be to deliver early wickets and set up the game for the tweakers.

Wily leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, IPL's most prolific bowler, will be complemented by the left-arm spin of Harpreet Brar, whose strengths lie in accuracy and wicket-to-wicket line.

All things considered, the Kings do have the firepower to go all the way. But the question remains: can they exorcise the ghosts of the past and produce a winning blueprint to back the personnel?

Former India all-rounder Syed Abid Ali passes away

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Former India all-rounder Syed Abid Ali passed away on Wednesday. He was 83.

A medium-pace bowling all-rounder, Abid played 29 Test matches for India, scoring 1018 runs and taking 47 wickets. One of the finest cricketers from Hyderabad, he made a fantastic start to his Test career against Australia in Brisbane in 1967-68, when he registered impressive figures of six for 55, his career-best. Later in the same series, he scored 78 and 81, showcasing his potential with the bat.

He was a member of the Indian team led by Ajit Wadekar that won the historic Test at The Oval in 1971, after bowling out England for only 101 in the second innings.

The four-wicket win, coupled with the other two Tests (Lord's and Old Trafford) ending in a draw, saw India register its first-ever series win in England.

A fine fielder, Abid notably opened both the batting and bowling for India in seven Tests: against New Zealand in February 1968 and September/October 1969 and against the West Indies in February and April of 1971.

Abid Ali. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

> He was a lion-hearted cricketer who did anything the team needed. He was a thorough gentleman with impeccable manners
> **SUNIL GAVASKAR**

While his ODI career spanned only five matches (93 runs and seven wickets), three of them came in the first-ever men's World Cup in England in 1975.

In 212 First Class games, Abid took 397 wickets and scored 8732 runs.

He scored 169 runs and picked up 19 wickets in 12 List A matches.

As a coach, Abid handled the Hyderabad junior team, the national sides of Maldives and the UAE, and was a mentor at the Telangana Cricket Association.

He was also at the helm of the Andhra team that won the South Zone league in the 2001-02 Ranji Trophy.

Abid moved to the United States after he retired, and breathed his last there.

KBFC denies HFC in hard-fought draw

ISL

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

In what could be the final match of Hyderabad FC's existence, it was held to a 1-1 draw by Kerala Blasters in an Indian Super League clash at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium on Wednesday.

Both teams started with a spring in their step. Seven minutes into the contest, the visitor broke the deadlock when Mohammed Aimen's lob into the box was headed home by an unmarked Dusan Lagator at the far post.

There was a penalty appeal by HFC in the 17th minute when Nora Fernandes brought down Stefan Sapic. While the referee was not interested, replays showed that the goalkeeper had made contact with the Serbian. Blasters was also denied a penalty after Arshdeep Singh brought down Adrian Luna in the 29th minute.

The Nizams' industry was finally rewarded in the dying minutes of the first half when Blasters failed to clear Abdul Rabeeh's cross. Sourav met the loose ball with an overhead kick that nestled the back of the net, with the keeper grounded. The Indian, making only his second start in the ISL, broke his duck with a picture-perfect finish.

Final points table

No.	Team	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Mohun Bagan SG (Q)	24	17	5	2	47	16	56
2	FC Goa (Q)	24	14	6	4	43	27	48
3	Bengaluru FC (Q)	24	11	5	8	40	31	38
4	NEUFC (Q)	24	10	8	6	46	29	38
5	Jamshedpur FC (Q)	24	12	2	10	37	43	38
6	Mumbai City FC (Q)	24	9	9	6	29	28	36
7	Odisha FC	24	8	9	7	44	37	33
8	Kerala Blasters FC	24	8	5	11	33	37	29
9	East Bengal FC	24	8	4	12	27	33	28
10	Punjab FC	24	8	4	12	34	38	28
11	Chennaiyin FC	24	7	6	11	34	39	27
12	Hyderabad FC	24	4	6	14	22	47	18
13	Mohammedan SC	24	2	7	15	12	43	13

Q: Qualified

Sindhu falls in the first round; Indian doubles pairs move up

ALL ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
BIRMINGHAM

Star Indian shuttler P.V. Sindhu bowed out of the All England Championships with a three-game loss to Korea's Kim Ga Eun in the women's singles opening round on Wednesday.

The two-time Olympic medallist, returning after recovering from a hamstring injury, lost 21-19, 13-21, 13-21 to world No. 21 Kim.

However, there was good news for India in both women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly got past Chinese Taipei's Shuo Yun Sung and Chien Hui Yu 21-17, 21-13 in the first round.

Smooth sailing: Treesa and Gayatri made it to the last 16.
FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde progressed to the second round of mixed doubles competition.

The results: First round: Women: Kim Ga Eun (Kor) bt Sindhu 19-21, 21-13, 21-13.

Doubles: Gayatri & Treesa bt Shuo Yun Sung and Chien Hui Yu (Tpe) 21-17, 21-13.

Mixed doubles: Rohan & Ruthvika bt Ye Hong Wei and Nicole Gonzales Chan (Tpe) 21-10, 17-21, 24-22.

INBRIEF

Medvedev tops Paul; Yuki-Goransson in quarterfinals

Russia's Daniil Medvedev shook off a day of rain delays to beat Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-0 on Tuesday and reach the quarterfinals at Indian Wells, where he's vying to improve on runner-up finishes the past two years. Women's defending champion Iga Swiatek had to wait out a near-hour delay before beating Karolina Muchova 6-1, 6-1. Yuki Bhambri and Andre Goransson knocked out second seeds Harri Heliovaara and Henry Patten 6-2, 5-7, [10-5] in the doubles second round. Yuki and Goransson will play Fernando Romboli of Brazil and John-Patrick Smith of Australia in the quarterfinals.

Other results: Fourth round: Men: Griekspoor bt Watanuki 7-6 (4), 6-1; Rune bt Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4; Fils bt Giron 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Women: Andreeva bt Rybakina 6-1, 6-2; Svitolina bt Pegula 5-7, 6-1, 6-2; Qinwen bt Kostyuk 6-3, 6-2.

Vijay Sundar and Walkow advance in doubles

Vijay Sundar Prashanth and Poland's Szymon Walkow got past the Norwegian duo of Viktor Durasovic and Lukas Hellum-Lilleengen 6-2, 6-2 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €91,250 Challenger tennis in Cherbourg, France.

Other results: $40,000 ITF women, Shenzhen: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Priska Nugroho (Ina) & Ankita Raina bt Yiru Chen (Chn) & Man Ying Maggie Ng (Hkg) 6-3, 6-1.
$30,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi: First round: Ekaterina Reyngold bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-2, 6-3; Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Rinon Okuwaki (Jpn) 6-0, 6-3.

LIVE TELECAST

WPL: Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Conference League: Sony LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Legend Low has no plans to slow down

The 34-year-old has won medals for two countries and is one of the few big names to participate in the World Para Athletics GP in New Delhi

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

When she first came to India 16 years ago, Vanessa Low was a German teenager seeking her first international classification, unaware of what the future had in store for her.

The 34-year old is now back in the country as one of the most decorated para athletes of all times with no plans of slowing down.

Low's medal cabinet boasts of four Paralympic medals – three of them gold – an incredible eight Para World Championship medals and four European Championships ones.

She is also one of the few athletes to become a Paralympic champion for two countries, having moved to Australia in 2017 after marriage to fellow Paralympian Scott Readron, across two different events on the track (100m T42) and field (Long Jump T63).

"It feels like I have lived two different lives but I am lucky to be embraced by both countries.

"When I won in Tokyo and Paris, the German team celebrated alongside me," Low said on the sidelines of the maiden World Para Athletics Grand Prix here.

One of the few big names to participate in the three-day event, Low admitted the World Championships later this year was one of the reasons for her to make the trip.

Scripting success: Low displays her tattoo which depicts her triumphs. UTHRA GANESAN

"It's always nice to test things ahead of the World Championships. We actually expected it to be quite chaotic and we have seen the opposite, it's very well structured and everyone's really helpful. We are aware that the surface is going to be relaid before the competition, it's not horrible but it definitely needs an update and the people here will benefit," she revealed.

A map through years

Her right arm reads like a map with coordinates and depicts her success. Starting with 12°57' N 77°37' E, corresponding to the Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, the tattoo moves across Christchurch, Lyon and Doha, venues for the 2011, 2013 and 2015 World Championships and her victories with Germany.

It is signed by Roderick Green, her coach and mentor who got her back on track when Low was on the verge of quitting.

"He was the one who believed in me when I didn't believe in myself and even though it was tough moving base to the USA and starting all over again, he kept pushing me and is the one responsible for me actually starting winning after all those years of disappointment," she said.

EBFC crashes out after loss to FC Arkadag

Press Trust of India
ARKADAG (TURKMENISTAN)

A 10-man East Bengal conceded two late goals to go down 2-1 to FC Arkadag of Turkmenistan and crash out of the quarterfinals in the AFC Challenge League here on Wednesday.

Messi Bouli put EBFC in the lead in the first minute of the second leg quarterfinal match, but the Indian Super League side was reduced to 10 men in the 33rd minute when Lalchungnunga was given his second yellow card. Altymyrat Annadurdyyez then struck two late goalsto seal the semifinal spot.

The result: FC Arkadag 2 (Annadurdyyez 89, 90+8) bt EBFC 1 (Bouli 1) (Arkadag won 3-1 on aggregate).

Suraj breaks 1000m National record

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Uttarakhand's Suraj Singh broke the under-18 boys' 1000m National record on his way to gold in the 20th National youth athletics championships which concluded at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna on Wednesday.

Haryana won the overall team title while UP's Nitin Gupta (boys, 5000m race walk) and Tamil Nadu's Edwina Jason (girls, 400m) were adjudged as the championships' best athletes.

The results (under-18, winners only): Boys: 200m: Sayed Sabeer (Kar) 21.67s. **1000m:** Suraj Singh (Utk) 2:26.04s,

Suraj Singh.

under-18 National record, OR 2:27.20, Rahul Pal, 2010).
Long jump: Shivam Yadav (UP) 7.26m. **Javelin throw:** Himanshu (Har) 72.00m.
Girls: 200m: Prisha Mishra (Har) 24.72s. **1,000m:** Nandani Rajbhar (UP) 2:55.68s.
Javelin: Misti Karmakar (WB) 45.04m.
High jump: Anchal Patil (Mah) 1.68m. **Heptathlon:** Anamika Ajesh (Ker) 4270.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Men's hockey team selection trials

Hockey Karnataka will conduct trials on Saturday at the Hockey Stadium (Shanthi Nagar) in Bengaluru (10 a.m. onwards) to select the State senior men's team ahead of the Senior Men's National Championship to be held in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, from April 4 to 15.

Ashansh, Vivek star

Ashansh Prasad and Vivek Singh scored a brace each as Blitz FC thrashed AGORC FC 6-1 in the BDFA Urbanrise A-division league football here on Wednesday.
The results: Blitz FC 6 (R. Karthick (OG) 22, H.O. Yashwanth 42, Ashansh Prasad 49, 75, Vivek Singh 63, 80+1) bt AGORC FC 1 (Sudharshan V. Lokur 45+3); Sree Gajanana FC 3 (Jones Muthuraj 50, S. Antony Leonard 63, Arun Kumar Periyaswamy 80+2) drew with RWF FC 3 (S. Rajesh 10, 25, 59). **C-div:** Jai Bharath Nagar FC bt Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda FC 2-0; Tilak Memorial FC bt Bagalgunte FC 2-1.

RWFSA posts big win

Ranjeeth scored a hat-trick as RWFSA hammered Rainbow HC 8-1 in the KSHA-BHA Super Division league hockey here on Wednesday.
The result: RWFSA 8 (Ranjeeth 8, 37, 44, Deekshith 15, J.P. Kusha 18, 27, Sudeer Kujur 19, Chengappa 33) bt Rainbow HC 1 (K. Tharun Raj 34).

Mumbai set to host Barcelona vs Real Madrid legends match

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Legendary footballers, including Luis Figo and Carles Puyol will return to the field at the Dr. D.Y. Patil Sports Stadium in Navi Mumbai in the 'Legends Faceoff' between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid stalwarts. Madrid's Fernando Morientes and former Barcelona star Ricardo Quaresma have also confirmed their participation.

The match will be played on April 6. Tickets can be bought through District app.